FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

East Europe

ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!!

FBIS will phase out publication of most of its paper reports, including ALL Daily Reports and most FBIS Reports, by 31 December 1996.

See inside for information on how to access FBIS products and services electronically.

FBIS-EEU-96-063
Monday
1 April 1996

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

April 1996

Dear Customer:

Responding to our many customers' requests, NTIS will be offering FBIS publications electronically. Due to resource limitations, hardcopy production of FBIS publications will be phased out during 1996. We will notify our customers well in advance of the expiration date for each of our publications. Please see below regarding electronic access to products.

Our goal is to cease publication of all reports by 31 December 1996, except for S&T PERSPECTIVES, S&T CENTRAL EURASIA, S&T CHINA, S&T KOREA, S&T EUROPE, and S&T JAPAN. The S&T reports will continue to be published as hardcopy until the graphics they contain can be disseminated on-line.

FBIS products are offered electronically through the National Technical Information Service's (NTIS) "World News Connection" (WNC). This is a new on-line subscription service accessible through the World Wide Web. The Web address is http://wnc.fedworld.gov. Please see next page for a subscription form or call NTIS Fax Direct at 703-487-4140 and enter product code 8645 to receive more information.

World News Connection™

A Foreign News Alert Service from the U.S. Government

World News Connection - WNC1.....$ 21
7 Day - Introductory Offer
Unlimited interactive searching
[no profiles]
Order number SUB-9856BDQ

World News Connection - WNC2.....$ 50
Monthly
Unlimited interactive searching
[no profiles]
Order number PB95-985700BDQ

World News Connection - WNC3.....$ 75
Monthly
Unlimited interactive searching
[1 profile]
Order number PB95-985800BDQ

World News Connection - WNC4.....$100
Monthly
Unlimited interactive searching
[up to 5 profiles]
Order number PB95-985900BDQ
(Prices are subject to change)

User Name *(Please Print or Type)*	**Internet E-mail Address** *(Required)*	**Order Number**	**Price**
1) _____	_____	_____	_____
2) _____	_____	_____	_____

(Continue on a blank sheet if more space is required)

Deposit Account Number (for NTIS account customers only): _____

Customer Master Number (if known): _____ Date: _____

Contact Name: _____ Organization: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Province/Territory: _____ Country: _____

Foreign Postal Code: _____

Internet E-mail Address (Organization contact person): _____

Telephone Number: ( ) _____ Fax Number: ( ) _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Credit Card Expiration Date: _____

Card Type (Visa, Master Card, or American Express): _____

Cardholder's Name (as printed on the credit card): _____

Cardholder's Signature (required to validate all orders): _____

(Please fax this form back to NTIS at **703-321-8547**. Fax service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To verify receipt of your fax, call (703) 487-4679 between 7:00am - 5:00pm, Monday - Friday, Eastern Time.)

Daily Report
East Europe

FBIS-EEU-96-063 *1 April 1996*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: This volume contains a representative selection of material previously disseminated in softcopy format.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Balkans: Balkan Defense Ministers To Meet in Tirana *[Tirana Radio]* 1
Balkans: Balkan Defense Ministers Begin Summit in Tirana *[Tirana Radio]* 1
Balkans: Paper Explains Greek Absence at Defense Summit *[Zurich BOTA SOT 30 Mar]* 1

ALBANIA

Albania: Ministry Issues Communique on Balkan Summit *[Tirana Radio]* 3
Albania: President Urges New Vision for Balkan Security *[Tirana TV]* 3
Albania: U.S. Seen as 'Influential' at Tirana Summit *[Zurich BOTA SOT 29 Mar]* 4
Albania: Article Identifies Leaders of New Socialist Party *[KOHA JONE 29 Mar]* 4
Albania: PDKSh Opposes PSD, AD Alliances With PS *[Tirana Radio]* 5

CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech Republic: Estonian Foreign Minister on Trade Talks *[Prague Radio]* 6
Czech Republic: Minister on Solution to Dispute With Germany *[Prague Radio]* 6
Czech Republic: Rise of German Nationalism Viewed *[LIDOVE NOVINY 12 Feb]* 6
Czech Republic: Fighter Choice Being Narrowed to U.S. Planes *[DENNI TELEGRAF 27 Mar]* 8
Czech Republic: Possibility of Russo-German Security System *[LIDOVE NOVINY 21 Feb]* 8
Czech Republic: CSSD Offices in Prague Burglarized *[PRAGUE POST 27 Feb]* 9
Czech Republic: Money-Laundering Law Finalized *[PRAGUE POST 27 Feb]* 9
Czech Republic: Koruna's Exchange Rate To Be Liberalized *[PRAVO LIDU 13 Feb]* 10
Czech Republic: Renewal of Trade With Bosnia Proposed *[PRAGUE POST 27 Feb]* 10

SLOVAKIA

Slovakia: Meciar on Penal Code Law, Basic Treaty, NATO *[Bratislava Radio]* 12
Slovakia: List of Approved Territorial Divisions Published *[NARODNA OBRODA 26 Mar]* 14
Slovakia: Defense, Transport Ministers' Integrity Questioned *[PRAVDA 28 Mar]* 15

HUNGARY

Hungary: Argument Against NATO Membership Presented *[REFORM 26 Mar]* 16
Hungary: Kovacs Explains Position on Slovak Treaty *[Budapest TV]* 17
Hungary: Romanian Ambassador Views Bilateral Relations *[UJ MAGYARORSZAG 29 Mar]* 17
Hungary: Horn Addresses Socialist Party Congress *[Budapest Radio]* 18
Hungary: Premier Horn Rejects Party Criticism at Congress *[Budapest TV]* 19
Hungary: Socialist Party Congress Reelects Horn *[Budapest Radio]* 20
Hungary: Privatization Minister Resigns, Quits Party *[Budapest Radio]* 20
Hungary: Horn Still Counts on Suchman's Ministerial Work *[Budapest Radio]* 20
Hungary: Resigning Minister Offers To Work for Government *[Budapest Radio]* 20
Hungary: Socialist Party Congress Supports Government *[Budapest Radio]* 21
Hungary: Socialist Party Official Interviewed on Congress *[Budapest TV]* 21

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

B-H: Prime Ministers Assess Joint Meeting in Banja Luka *[Sarajevo TV]* 23

B-H: Bosnian PM Calls on Bildt To Curtail Aid to Serbs *[Sarajevo Radio]* 23
B-H: Steiner, Ganic on Signing Federation Agreement *[Sarajevo Radio]* 24
B-H: 'Excerpts' From Text of Bosnian Federation Accord *[Sarajevo Radio]* 25
B-H: Ganic, Perry Give Statements After Talks in Sarajevo *[Sarajevo TV]* 26
B-H: Ganic, Muratovic Sign Agreements With World Bank *[Sarajevo Radio]* 26
B-H: $12-Million Aid Memorandum Signed With EU *[Sarajevo Radio]* 27
B-H: World Bank Official, Muratovic on Importance of Loans *[Sarajevo Radio]* 27
B-H: Minister Assesses War Damage to Agriculture, Forestry *[Hanau NOVA BOSNA 29 Mar]* 28
B-H: Silajdzic Sees Sarajevo as 'Victory' for Karadzic *[Vienna DIE PRESSE 27 Mar]* 28
B-H: 'Compromise' Seen Possible on U.S. Demand on AID *[FOCUS 21 Mar]* 29
B-H: EU's Koschnick Sends Farewell Letter to Izetbegovic *[Sarajevo Radio]* 30
B-H: Koschnick Says Sarajevo To Decide Dayton's Fate *[TANJUG]* 31
B-H: Croat Police Stop Bosniaks From Visting Mostar Homes *[Mostar Radio]* 31
B-H: Group of Bosniaks Visits Brcko Cemetery *[Sarajevo Radio]* 31
B-H: UN Police Threaten Federation With Sanctions *[TANJUG]* 32
B-H: Kasagic: All POW's To Be Released 1 Apr *[TANJUG]* 32
B-H: Karadzic Comments on Situation in Serb-Held Sarajevo *[Pale TV]* 32
B-H: Muslims Accused of Harassment, Arrests in Sarajevo *[Pale TV]* 33
B-H: Serb Refugees To Get Abandoned Muslim-Croat Property *[SRNA]* 34
B-H: International Police Send 28 Observers to Sapna *[Sarajevo Radio]* 34
B-H: IFOR Increases Patrols in 'Tense' Grbavica *[AFP]* 34
B-H: Karadzic Attends Bosnian Serb Government Session *[SRNA]* 35
B-H: Opposition Groups Meet To Discuss Sep Elections *[AFP]* 35
B-H: Bosnian Serb Government Drafts Law on Radio, TV *[SRNA]* 35

CROATIA

Croatia: Tudjman Meets U.S. Defense Secretary Perry *[Zagreb Radio]* 36
Croatia: Tudjman, Perry Give News Conference *[Zagreb TV]* 36
Croatia: Defense Minister Susak, Perry Comment on Talks *[Zagreb Radio]* 37
Croatia: TV Commentator Views Perry's Visit to Zagreb *[Zagreb TV]* 38
Croatia: Radio Comments on Secretary Perry's Visit *[Sarajevo Radio]* 38
Croatia: Zagreb Previews U.S. Defense Secretary's Visit *[Zagreb Radio]* 39
Croatia: Indicted War Criminal Blaskic Leaves for Hague *[AFP]* 39
Croatia: Blaskic To Quit Army Post Before Hague Hearing *[AFP]* 39
Croatia: Army Maintains Combat Readiness in East *[Zagreb TV]* 40
Croatia: Security Chief Explains Wiretapping Practice *[VECERNJI LIST 28 Mar]* 40
Croatia: Opposition Parties To Reelect Zagreb Mayor *[Zagreb Radio]* 43
Croatia: Serb Organizations Form Association *[TANJUG]* 43
Croatia: New Independent Trade Union Leader Elected *[Zagreb Radio]* 44

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

FYROM: Negotiations Begin on Trade Accord With EU *[MIC]* 45
FYROM: Italy Introduces Visa Requirement for Citizens *[MIC]* 45
FYROM: Albanian PRUP Leader Outlines Party Goals *[Zurich BOTA SOT 25 Mar]* 45
FYROM: Opposition Parties Seek Early Elections *[PULS 29 Mar]* 45
FYROM: Assembly Adopts Law on Collection of Signatures *[MIC]* 47
FYROM: Poll Shows Lack of Trust in Police, Courts *[VECER 29 Mar]* 48

POLAND

Poland: Rosati Views Poland's Access to NATO, Russia *[POLITYKA 30 Mar]* 49
Poland: Official on EU Conference in Turin *[RZECZPOSPOLITA 29 Mar]* 49

Poland: Kwasniewski Wants To Meet Opposition in Belarus *[Warsaw TV]* 50
Poland: Media on Purported Russian-Proposed Corridor *[Warsaw TV, etc.]* 50
Poland: Prime Minister's Address on Law, Order *[Warsaw TV]* 51
Poland: Cimoszewicz Accused of Promoting Dishonest Officials *[RZECZPOSPOLITA 29 Mar]* 53
Poland: Oleksy Case Commission Interviews UOP Officers *[GAZETA WYBORCZA 29 Mar]* 53
Poland: Probability of Dropping Oleksy Case Discussed *[GAZETA WYBORCZA 29 Mar]* 54
Poland: Problems of Ethnic Minorities Discussed *[GLOS SZCZECINSKI 9-10 Mar]* 54
Poland: BBWR Expels Chairman, Appoints Replacement *[Warsaw Radio]* 55
Poland: State Secrets Law Possibly Broached by Phone Firm *[RZECZPOSPOLITA 29 Mar]* 55

ROMANIA

Romania: CDR Warns Against Hasty Treaty With Russia *[ROMANIA LIBERA 23 Mar]* 57
Romania: UDMR Senator on Szeckler Land Autonomy Debates *[ADEVARUL 25 Mar]* 57
Romania: UDMR's Marko 'Victory' Over Tokes Reported *[ADEVARUL 22 Mar]* 58
Romania: Cluj Prefect Rebuffs Funar Allegation About UDMR *[JURNALUL NATIONAL 20 Mar]* . 59
Romania: Funar's Opponent Vows To Bring Normalcy to Cluj *[JURNALUL NATIONAL 23 Mar]* .. 59
Romania: Article Notes PD's Babiuc Views on PDSR Aims *[JURNALUL NATIONAL 22 Mar]* 60
Romania: PNL-C Names Campeanu as Presidential Candidate *[Bucharest Radio]* 60

SLOVENIA

Slovenia: Opposition Deputies Oppose Spanish Proposal on EU *[Ljubljana Radio]* 61
Slovenia: Drnovsek Defends Secret Service Head *[DELO 26 Mar]* 61

YUGOSLAVIA

Serbia

Serbia: Opposition Protests Milosevic Regime at Rally *[AFP]* 63
Serbia: SPS Official: Opposition Rally Unsuccessful *[Belgrade TV]* 63
Serbia: Commentary Views Draskovic Attack on Milosevic *[Belgrade TV]* 64

Kosovo

Kosovo: SSJ Leader: Albanians Must Be Loyal to Serbia *[TANJUG]* 64
Kosovo: Serb Police Buildup Reported in Djakovica *[KOSOVA DAILY REPORT]* 65
Kosovo: Serb Police Reportedly Harass Albanian Journalist *[KOSOVA DAILY REPORT]* 65
Kosovo: Serb Police Said To Harass Albanian Teachers *[KOSOVA DAILY REPORT]* 65
Kosovo: Serb Police Reportedly Raid Albanian Homes *[KOSOVA DAILY REPORT]* 66
Kosovo: Albanian Schools Said Targeted by Serb Police *[KOSOVA DAILY REPORT]* 66
Kosovo: 'Violence Against Albanians' by Serbs Reported *[KOSOVA DAILY REPORT]* 67
Kosovo: Rugova Hopes For Mediator in Belgrade Talks *[KOSOVA DAILY REPORT]* 67
Kosovo: Rugova Rejects Autonomy, Urges Independence *[RILINDJA 30 Mar]* 68
Kosovo: Rugova Praises U.S. Support for Albanian Issue *[Tirana TV]* 70

Balkans: Balkan Defense Ministers To Meet in Tirana

AU3103144796 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1230 GMT 31 Mar 96

[Report by Zamira Koleci]

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting of southern Balkan defense ministers will begin in one of the halls of the Palace of Congresses this afternoon. The meeting constitutes one of the most important political events in the past four years. Albania initiated and is hosting this regional conference on defense and security problems.

In a press communique several days ago, the Defense Ministry stated that today's meeting in Tirana will be a reflection of Albanian policy, which is based on integration in euro-atlantic structures.

Today's summit will be attended by the defense ministers of Albania, Turkey, Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia], and Bulgaria. Greece is the only southern Balkan country that will not be participating. U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry and Italian Defense Minister Corcione will also take part, as well as their Swiss counterpart, who will be representing the OSCE [Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe].

At a recent news conference, Albanian Defense Minister Zhulali declared that the meeting's agenda aims to establish dialogue among the Balkan states on issues of common interest. Another aim is to learn from each other's experiences.

In an interview for USHTRIA DHE KOHA [ARMY AND TIME] yesterday, Deputy Defense Minister Moisiu stressed the importance of this meeting by pointing out that it is being held after the Dayton agreement. Second, the participating countries do not have the same concerns that the other Balkan countries do, and third, this meeting is being held at a time when the participating countries have signed defense agreements, which Mr. Moisiu assesses to be very good. Moisiu also stressed that there are annual cooperation programs that are being implemented.

Albania's initiative to host the Tirana summit is supported by the U.S. Defense Department and is further proof that Albania is and remains a factor of stability in the Balkans.

Balkans: Balkan Defense Ministers Begin Summit in Tirana

AU3103164696 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1600 GMT 31 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting of southern Balkan defense ministers opened in Tirana today. The first of its kind, this meeting aims to increase security cooperation in the region. The meeting was organized upon Albania's initiative and has been very well received by the participants. The importance and appraisal of this meeting is evident by the fact that U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry will take part in it within the framework of a visit to our country as the head of a U.S. military delegation.

Delegations from The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bulgaria, Turkey, and Italy have come to Albania to participate.

Albanian Defense Minister Safet Zhulali today received the Italian delegation led by Italian Defense Minister Domenico Corcione. Zhulali thanked Corcione for the contribution Italy has rendered and continues to render for Albania and the Albanian Army and stressed the need of a good experience by the alliance member countries to reach its standards, as well as the need for greater support regarding Albania's integration into NATO.

Corcione assessed Albania's initiative for the southern Balkan defense ministers' meeting by considering it as an assembly that serves all those who are interested in peace and stability in the region. Corcione stated that the ministerial meeting on defense is a practical contribution to strengthening relations of good-neighborliness, security, and stability in the region.

Zhulali had another special meeting this afternoon with Bulgarian Defense Minister Dimitur Pavlov and other members of the Bulgarian delegation. They discussed what has been achieved and the need to increase and further expand defense cooperation. They also stressed the need to augment common activity under the conditions of Partnership for Peace.

The southern Balkan ministerial meeting on defense was assessed to be a practical contribution to exchanging good experiences for the benefit of security and stability in the region.

Balkans: Paper Explains Greek Absence at Defense Summit

AU3103150096 Zurich BOTA SOT in Albanian 30 Mar 96 p 14

[Report by "R.R.": "Six States Have Confirmed Their Participation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Defense Ministry spokesman reports that six states have confirmed their participation in the conference of southern Balkans defense ministers in Tirana on 31 March and 1 April. Besides Albania, the defense ministers of Turkey, Bulgaria, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as the United States, Italy, and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Switzerland, currently chairing the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] Presidency, will take part. As is known, only the Greek defense minister will not be participating in this conference. In Tirana some time ago, Greek Foreign Minister Pangalos explained that Greece would be absent because Romania and Serbia were not invited and that there was no need for ministers from third country states, such as the United States and Italy, to take part.

NATO Secretary General Havier Solana will arrive in Tirana on 1 April. It is not yet known whether he will participate in the conference. Otherwise, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry will be one of the participants and will officially stay in Albania for two days.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Albania: Ministry Issues Communique on Balkan Summit

AU3103182896 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1730 GMT 31 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The two-day meeting of southern Balkan defense ministers began in Tirana today. President Sali Berisha welcomed the participating delegations and wished them much success in their work.

The meeting is being held at Albania's initiative, which, as a democratic country, is deeply interested and is making efforts to help ensure regional security, preserve international peace, and strengthen the security of the Balkan peninsula countries, Europe, and beyond.

A press communiqui issued by the Albanian Defense Ministry stresses that the agenda of this meeting aims to establish a dialogue on issues of common interest. The participating countries are also expected to profit from each other's experiences.

The participants will discuss topics such as regional security and cooperation, measures of good faith, military cooperation, humanitarian aid in catastrophes, and civil relations. The initiators of the meeting stress that regional stability is considered a condition to move toward Western integration, which makes necessary and natural the close cooperation among our countries, some of whom have just emerged from half a century of dictatorship. It is clear that the challenge that determines the new relations in the region is to work harder for a more democratic and prosperous future.

The meeting also aims to reaffirm a common conviction that preserving peace, respecting human rights, and consolidating democratic societies are principles for all regional countries. The Albanian side believes that every Balkan country's crisis should be a common concern. There can be no peace without security, and there can be no development without peace. That is why Albania reaffirms its commitment to resolve peacefully the problems and disputes among the Balkan states.

We will carry more details in our later newscasts.

Albania: President Urges New Vision for Balkan Security

AU3103203996 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 31 Mar 96

[Report by Vjollca Vokshi]

[FBIS Translated Text] The opening ceremony of the meeting of southern Balkan defense ministers, which is the first of its kind organized in our country, was held at the Palace of Congresses in Tirana.

The summit, which was organized at the top level, is being hosted by Albania, whose contribution to preserving security in the Balkans has always been praised by international circles.

The defense ministers are arriving one by one at the Palace of Congresses—Italy's Corcione, Macedonia's [the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia] Handziski, Bulgaria's Pavlov, Turkey's Sungurlu, OSCE [Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe] representative Ritz, and U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, who is heading a top U.S. delegation consisting of Under Secretary of Defense Kramer, Congressman Eliot Engel, and the director for Eastern and Central European countries.

President Sali Berisha arrived at the Palace of Congresses in Tirana at 1920 to greet the participants and open the meeting. He wished the participants success in their work, telling them that the meeting testifies to the unwavering will of our countries to work together on the basis of a new concept on security and stability in the Balkans. This is particularly important for the dramatic situations that our region is undergoing. The conflict in the former Yugoslavia has eased following the Dayton agreement, but there is still the Kosova problem, which could be dangereous for peace and stability in the Balkans, President Berisha stressed. We think that the establishment of negotiations between Prishtina and Belgrade in the presence of a third party will be necessary to achieve a just solution and guarantee human and national rights and the freedoms of Albanians in conformity with international acts, Berisha continued.

President Berisha called the Tirana conference an appropriate event to think about a new vision for Balkan security and good understanding. To grasp this idea, it is necessary to work together, Berisha said, to first realize some modest but meaningful goals—first, for achieving bilateral military cooperation, also within the Partnership for Peace framework; second, for planning catastrophic aid; third, for establishing good-faith measures; and last, for developing civil and military relations.

President Berisha is confident that the conference will ensure further cooperation. Every country can learn from another, Berisha said. What we need most are concrete steps and practices that are necessary, and I think it is worth focusing on how to implement them, Berisha said.

The presence of U.S. Defense Secretary Perry and Ministers Corcione and Sungurlu at this conference best testify to the importance of the meeting, Berisha said.

Today's ceremony marked the opening of the proceedings. Negotiations will begin at 0800 tomorrow.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Albania: U.S. Seen as 'Influential' at Tirana Summit

AU3003171796 Zurich BOTA SOT in Albanian 29 Mar 96 p 9

[Commentary by Enver Maloku: "Balkan Officials Travel to Cooperation Summits and Are in Competition"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

Military Meeting in Tirana

The meeting in Tirana is important because U.S. Defense Minister William Perry will be participating alongside the defense ministers of the Balkan countries, such as Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Macedonia [the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia], and Turkey.

It is immediately noticeable that no one from Belgrade has been invited to the meeting. The Serbian propaganda and diplomacy have expressed their regret at being ignored by Tirana and their Balkan partners. Belgrade believes that the Tirana meeting is an attempt to undermine the prime ministers' summit in Sofia, where someone from Belgrade will take part.

Of course, the contrary can be said here as well—that the Sofia summit will attempt to legitimize the self-proclaimed Yugoslavia, yet without being internationally recognized.

Informed sources say that the Tirana meeting has also experienced some disagreements. Greece's participation up until recently was still pending. It seems that Athens's dilemmas disappeared following U.S. pressure and the visit by the Greek president to Albania.

It is already known that Albania has established very good military cooperation with the United States, upon whose initiative, it is said, the meeting in Tirana was summoned. As for the Balkan countries, Albania has set up good cooperation with Turkey, Macedonia, and Bulgaria. Some days ago, FYROM Foreign Minister Ljubomir Frckovski demanded that Macedonia and Albania be treated as areas of Western interest, considering the position of the two countries and the pressures on them, which may possibly increase. As is seen, the NATO member states and those states that have established cooperation with the alliance within the framework of Partnership for Peace will take part in the Tirana summit. [passage omitted]

The meetings and frequent joint Albanian-U.S. exercises, as well as the joint multilateral exercises, aim to demonstrate the military cooperation of these countries with NATO, despite Moscow's harsh reactions. [passage omitted]

Meeting of Prime Ministers in Sofia

Besides the meeting of top military authorities of the majority of the Balkan countries in Tirana, another interesting meeting is expected to be held in Sofia in May. [passage omitted]

According to reports, alongside Belgrade, Tirana and Ankara will participate in the Sofia meeting. It is said that they have accepted the invitation not that willingly. The two states, strongly oriented toward the West, are aware that several of the Balkan countries are trying to set up alliances similar to the old ones. [passage omitted]

Race To Win and Race To Isolate the Opponent

[Passage omitted] For fear that Russian domination may return and that the danger of Slav domination may come back, several Balkan states are trying to reorient and reorganize themselves through alliances and by signing cooperation agreements. In the past, efforts have been strengthened to establish agreements between Macedonia, Albania, and Turkey, including the construction of the old Durres-Istanbul road. [passage omitted]

These meetings are, however, accompanied by other dilemmas as well. While the U.S. role and power will be influential in Tirana, it is not yet known who will play this role in Sofia and whether efforts will eventually be made to give Russia a role at this meeting. [passage omitted]

Albania: Article Identifies Leaders of New Socialist Party

AU2903183396 Tirana KOHA JONE in Albanian 29 Mar 96 p 3

[Article by Arben Vata: Founders of New Socialist Party Made Known]

[FBIS Translated Text] Albania will soon have a new party, to be called the New Socialist Party [Partia e Re Socialiste, PRS]. Late the evening before last, the 400 initiators of the new party submitted to the Justice Ministry their application for the approval of the PRS's program and statutes. However, Justice Minister Frasheri had still not legitimized the new party late yesterday evening. Yesterday morning, the ministry spokesman said that there are many well-known intellectuals among the PRS founders. The party's chairman is Nikollaq Bardhi, doctor of agricultural sciences and lecturer at Kamez Agricultural University. The other presidium members are Dr. Bajram Preza, doctor; Dr. Zydi Eshja, doctor; and Dr. Besim Daja. The news of the new party's creation had provoked discussion about the names of its founders. Tefik Ajazi, Bujar Hoxha,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Luan Malltezi, and Skender Koja were, until recently, the most frequently mentioned names in connection with the creation of the PRS.

There are others, former PS Deputy Tefik Ajazi said as he emerged from the Justice Ministry offices. Ajazi also visited the Democratic Party [PD] headquarters yesterday, which seems to have compromised his declared position of independence. Both Hoxha and Koja also denied yesterday that they had the privilege of creating the PRS.

I know nothing about this party, Hoxha said. Skender Koja said I have no connection with it, but the Socialist Party [PS] will have a future if it abandons Enver Hoxha. The PRS's founder, Nikollaq Bardhi, said yesterday that the PRS will enter politics in order to balance the extremes of left and right. According to Bardhi, the party he is founding has nothing in common with any other party in Albania, politically, socially, economically, or structurally. This most special of Albanian parties has the goal of making political pluralism in Albania comparable to that in Germany, Austria, France, etc. In the social sphere, the PRS promises dedication to the creation of the rule of law, new levels of welfare, a fast rate of development of the market economy, etc.

The chairman of the newest political party said yesterday that the PRS is a party of the left thjat is inclined toward the center. From the democratic point of view, we have an equal right to operate as others, but we are different in what we do, Bardhi said.

Party Chairman Bardhi stressed that his party has no quarrel with the PS. As for the admission of members to the PRS, Bardhi laid down conditions. Any member of the PS that respects and recognizes himself in the work of the PRS has the right to apply to join our party. However, we in the PRS dissociate ourselves from and do not accept people who were part of the senior leadership of the Albanian Workers Party and persons who took part in trials that were connected with the rights of individuals. Bardhi said nothing about a flood of Socialist deputies and intellectuals toward his party, as the press had predicted, but admitted in despair that the PRS will not be able to achieve its political, economic, and social goals quickly. It is difficult for us to take part in the elections with the goal of achieving power, but we will take part in order to balance political life and to ensure that these elections are democratic, free, and without incidents.

Meanwhile, news of the creation of the PRS provoked no response among the PS leaders. The PS General Management Committee did not deal with this news at all yesterday. We have important work to do and have no reason to become involved with parties created by Berisha, PS Deputy Chairman Dokle said. Berisha is scared by the success of the PS Second Congress and has therefore speeded up the creation of this party. Meanwhile, PS Deputy Ndre Legisi refused to admit that the Socialists have been split by the creation of the PRS. The creation of the PRS merely means a split in the PD, because such people have never voted for the PS, but for the PD.

Albania: PDKSh Opposes PSD, AD Alliances With PS

AU3103154296 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1230 GMT 31 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Zef Bushati, leader of the Christian Democratic Party [PDKSh], declared yesterday at the Tirana branch conference that his party opposes the alliances of the Social Democratic Party [PSD] and Democratic Alliance [AD] with the Socialist Party [PS]. The PS congress clarified several problems that we have been discussing for a long time, Bushati said. The congress clarified party positions and openly declared the PSD and AD alliances with the PS.

The PDKSh is a party of the center and it has openly expressed its opposition to alliances with the PS, Bushati said. We favor an independent center, while they want the center to be dependent on the PS, Bushati stated. We will in no way accept that the center be dependent, Bushati stressed, adding that if this is not corrected, we will cease relations with this party.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Czech Republic: Estonian Foreign Minister on Trade Talks

LD0104123496 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1000 GMT 1 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Estonian Foreign Minister Siim Kallas is on an official visit to the Czech Republic. He started today with talks at the Industry and Trade Ministry. Jitka Kucerova reports:

[Kucerova] His talks with Czech Trade Minister Vladimir Dlouhy concentrated on the EU, security issues in general, and the current situation in Russia.

Asked by Radiozurnal whether the Czech Republic shares Estonian views on the current situation in Russia, Vladimir Dlouhy told us the following, I quote. We very much agree with each other on this issue. The current preelection situation in Russia is not stable, and we should follow this situation really very carefully, if only for the sake of our being firmly and independently anchored in democratic Europe.

The ministers went on to discuss bilateral trade relations. The volume of the Czech Republic's exports to Estonia is much higher than the volume of our imports from there. On the other hand, the number of Czech-Estonian joint ventures is constantly rising.

Minister Kallas will hold talks with Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec later today.

Czech Republic: Minister on Solution to Dispute With Germany

LD3103131096 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1200 GMT 31 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec today announced that a political and legal solution to the issues rooted in the past and disputed by Germany and the Czech Republic would be reached in the near future.

Speaking at a preelection conference held by the Civic Democratic Party in Brno, he stressed that removal of the obstacles hindering good and close cooperation with Germany was of historic significance for both states, though, above all, for the Czech Republic, which is striving to join the EU and NATO. In his view, this is why a strong political will to conclude this process exists on both sides.

Czech Republic: Rise of German Nationalism Viewed

96CH0058A Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 12 Feb 96 p 8

[Article by Miloslav Bednar, Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences: "The European Significance of the Czecho-German Dispute"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Germany's policy toward its eastern neighbors did not assume the position of an all-European provocation as a result of the recent document published by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which does not recognize the conclusions of the Potsdam Conference. As far back as the fall of last year, Kinkel, minister of foreign affairs, proclaimed that his country considers the property demands of German nationals from the territory of the current Polish Republic to be an open matter. As [illegible]lucidation of the recent efforts by the German Gove[illegible]nt to incorporate a similar demand into the text of the Czecho-German declaration, the chief of German diplomacy even made reference to the Polish precedent, without taking into account the emphatic Warsaw NO.

Germany had obviously violated its international obligations, which it had assumed in the treaty on West German sovereignty. This is a matter of a dangerous all-European adventurous effort to cast doubt upon and to violate the fundamentals of the political independence of East European countries. It would be preposterous to seriously dwell on statements regarding the purely moral aspects of German eastern policy, as they are being disseminated by our western neighbor with regular echoes among several Czech spokespersons and superficial journalists. The current German attempt to annul the results of World War II in an eastward direction first is the logical first specifically political step taken down the well-beaten track of the megalomaniacal vision of a German Europe.

In the beginning, there was the question as to what positions a united Germany would occupy for itself with respect to the force lines of the European Union. Bavaria looms particularly as an anti-European bastion. Stoiber, its prime minister, has proclaimed that Europe is an illusion. Moreover, the Federal Bank clearly has no intentions of sacrificing the German mark to a European currency. The vocabulary of Chancellor Kohl has symptomatically lost the Churchillian expression "United States of Europe" in order to be replaced by the phrase "European Federation." In the expansion of the European Union, Germany concentrated on the European north and east. France was disturbed by this German turnaround. In March 1993, Gallois, the respected French general, expressed himself in the daily

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

LE MONDE as being opposed to the growth of German Europe. He recalled the words of Roland Dumas, former French minister of foreign affairs, who said that Germany and the Vatican had accelerated the Balkan crisis and he reached the conclusion that Germany had even triggered it. According to the general, Frenchmen should actually be grateful for the current German policy. Much as Bismarck had moderated the ardor of the militant Pan-Germanists, so Kohl is now impeding a premature German expansion toward the east. But in this regard, the strict German disapproval of the use of the expression "state border" in the interstate treaty with Czechoslovakia, dated 1992, is worthy of note. It is difficult to escape a comparison with the position taken by German Chancellor Stresemann who, in 1925, when finalizing the Locarno Accords and during the subsequent efforts to achieve reconciliation between Germany and France, obstinately rejected negotiating any guarantee pacts involving the state borders between Germany and her eastern neighbors.

The March 1994 request by the French ambassador that German foreign policy be clarified brought about the angry reaction of Minister Kinkel, which, allegedly, exceeded diplomatic customs. Jacob Heilbrunn, a U.S. political scientist, believes that French fears of Germany are appropriate. Germany sees the expansion of the European Union as an instrument of emancipation from France, first by creating a "northern bloc." Its new members will clearly be aware of their obligations toward Germany, as opposed to their ties to Paris. In contrast to the careful formulations used by Minister Kinkel, the leftist weekly DER SPIEGEL openly wrote that the expansion of the European Union should give rise, in Europe, to a new power center. The northern bloc and Austrian membership in the European Union presignify the inclusion of East Europe and document German efforts to fill the power vacuum following the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Kohl's effort to organically interconnect German unification with European integration did not succeed.

Here, Russo-German relationships played a decisive role. Despite the opposition of Japan and the United States, Chancellor Kohl managed to assert Russian membership in the G-7 group. The shift in the German position regarding the expansion of NATO and Russian membership in the Council of Europe are symptomatic. Kinkel, German minister of foreign affairs, gave the impression at the beginning of the session of the North Atlantic Treaty Council for collaboration, in the spring of 1994, that he would give priority to "special relationships" of NATO and of Russia ahead of the Partnership for Peace. He received an indirect response from Warren Christopher, U.S. secretary of state, when the latter characterized the Partnership for Peace as the "most important strategic institution since the establishment of NATO." This year, prior to the January negotiations of the deferred Russian membership in the Council of Europe, Kinkel stated that "from the standpoint of our Polish and Hungarian friends, as well, entry into the European Union must stand in the foreground, rather than entry into NATO." In a similar spirit, Schaeuble, chairman of the parliamentary CDU/CSU [Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union] faction, evaluated the acceptance for membership of the countries of Central and East Europe in the union as a "priority European project."

For German policy, as well as for Russian policy—the revival of German-Russian hegemony in Europe—NATO looms like an unpleasant obstacle. The key importance of the alliance as a security spine for the European Union is almost burdensome, particularly if NATO is to accept the East European countries. A firm guarantee of their security and democratic statehood renders the isolation of Europe from the United States and its Russo-German control impossible. According to Kinkel, the objective of an expanded NATO is to be a unification rather than a breakup; European security is not to be organized against Russia, but rather with Russia. To what extent is it possible to speak of Russia as a democracy based on adherence to human rights after removal of the Democrats from the government, after the "elections" in Chechnya, and after the genocidal war against the Chechnyan people? Such a question and the specifically rejective relationship of Russia with respect to NATO is of secondary importance to Germany's European doctrine. Let us recall Masaryk's acknowledgment that a Democrat in Russia is a condition for a democratic Europe. The U.S. presence in Europe, in the Balkan crisis, and given the obvious inclination toward a Russo-German big-power game involving Central and East Europe, once more looms as a prerequisite for the democratic future of our continent.

In the case of the Czech Republic as the arguably weakest location for an attempt to revise the results of World War II, the German media have recently unleashed a round of nationalistic propaganda that is close to hysteria. For example, FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG, in an editorial commentary written by J.G. Reissmueller on 2 January, expressed shock at the use of the word expatriation (odsun) and seriously contended that the hapless great powers at the Potsdam Conference were coerced in that direction by Czechoslovakia and by Poland. This was said to be merely a matter of ethnic cleansing in violation of moral principles, the law, and the spirit of reconciliation (for

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Czech Television, the interpretation was provided by J. Dienstbier; for MLADA FRONTA DNES, M. Mocek and M. Weiss).

The current wave of German nationalism renders impossible any quiet contemplation over their regarding the relationship between history, moral principles, the law, and reconciliation. It is all the more appropriate to emphatically state that the principle of collective guilt in moral respects applies, despite the fact that it is not possible to accept it in organized legal conditions. The postwar expatriation of significant portions of the German minorities, who had been politically threatening the European democratic peace beginning with the second half of the last century and who were present at the birth of two world wars, cannot be considered as being absolutely morally ideal, but rather as a punishment of history. Its moral motivations are beyond discussion, both with the democratic allies and also with the Czech struggle for independence. Until such a level of self-recognition is attained by German public opinion and its political elite, any true reconciliation within the spirit of Europeanism is without substance.

Czech Republic: Fighter Choice Being Narrowed to U.S. Planes

AU2803160796 Prague DENNI TELEGRAF in Czech 27 Mar 96 p 2

[Report by "(fp)": "U.S. Fighters Are To Be Given Priority"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prague—Although the conclusions of the Czech-U.S. commission on the recommended means of modernizing the supersonic Air Force are top secret, according to military experts it is possible to deduce that the U.S. F-16A and F/A-18 aircraft will be given priority in the selection.

The options of modernizing the Russian MiG-21's and postponing the decision for five years are to be abandoned completely. The F/A-18 aircraft, which are manufactured by the U.S. McDonnell Douglas company, are considered to be the most impeccable technically, but the price per aircraft is approximately $45 million. Apparently the military experts most appreciate their robust construction, low operating costs, and undemanding maintenance. Leasing seven of the older F-16A aircraft for 2 billion korunas [Kc] is being taken into consideration in the second U.S. option. These aircraft from the Lockheed Martin company should serve, first and foremost, as a means of adapting the pilots to U.S. fighters. In the next phase, the Army should purchase 18 modernized F-16A or F-16B aircraft for almost Kc6.0 billion. The Americans will be able to deliver them in 1998.

Czech Republic: Possibility of Russo-German Security System

96CH0064A Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 21 Feb 96 p 1

[Commentary by Dusan Trestik: "Germany and Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In Moscow, Chancellor Kohl stated that the history of relationships between Germany and Russia is not only a history of war, but also of friendship. This is certainly true, but historians know that all German-Russian friendships have thus far always ended by a division of Poland among both of the two great powers. Most recently, Poland was shared in a friendly manner between Stalin and Hitler in the notorious Molotov-Ribbentrop pact. A "dear friend" of Germany and a personal friend of Chancellor Kohl did not come about until Mikhail Gorbachev, with whom the chancellor this time agreed not on a division, but on a unification—and not involving Poland, but rather Germany. The price of this unification, on the other hand, was the recognition of the current borders of Poland along the Oder and Neisse Rivers. However, this was not the only price; in Moscow, they claim—and certainly not without reason—that the German partner pledged not to support the expansion of NATO in an easterly directly.

For those who marvel and wonder where Kohl got the courage to simply strike out the question of NATO expansion from his own calendar, but primarily from that of the United States, this might suffice by way of an explanation. But gratitude alone for approval of the unification was certainly not decisive here. There are ever more frequent signs that the chancellor is parting ways with the United States and signs indicating efforts to forge a separate German policy. Thus, it would seem that those who see Kohl's actions in Moscow as a clear effort at achieving rapprochement with Russia behind the back of the United States are more likely correct. If Kohl is now acquiescing—albeit cautiously for the present—to the Russian project of a "European NATO" (a European system of security), then it is clear that this would be a Russo-German system, dominated by these two great powers. Germany could once more become the "empire of the European center," with all the dreadful consequences that this German position brought about in modern history. This is virtually a horrible vision for us and for all of Central Europe. Let us hope that it is only a vision.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Czech Republic: CSSD Offices in Prague Burglarized

96CH0063C Prague PRAGUE POST in English 27 Feb 96 p 2

[Article by Kathleen Knox: "Social Democrats Irked by a String of Break-Ins"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Milos Zeman, the head of the main Czech opposition party, has hinted that political dirty tricksters are behind a series of break-ins at his party's offices.

But with no direct proof and no names named, even some of Zeman's colleagues in the Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD) are wary of making political capital out of the burglaries.

The latest break-in, which took place sometime between Feb. 8-11 at the Social Democrats' Prague 10 office, follows a burglary at the party's Prague 1 headquarters on Hybernska street, and another at the Brno head office, where thieves stole a computer containing a list of party members. Small amounts of money were stolen in each case.

"As you know, the Social Democrats aren't exactly overflowing with money," Zeman said Feb. 16. "On the floor below the Brno office, there's an office which is literally stuffed with computers far more modern than our own. So we can assume that the thieves were either unusually uninformed, and (thought) our party is staggeringly wealthy...or they were interested in other goods—information on our election-campaign plan and strategy. Decide for yourself which of these hypotheses is more probable.

"We will not be sending thieves into other political parties' offices," Zeman said.

Zdenek Trojan, a Social Democrat parliamentary deputy, said he couldn't rule out political snooping as the reason for the robberies. But, he added, "It seems quite absurd that someone would try to get information in this way. Those who are interested have other, more elegant, methods to get at information."

And Jaroslav Basta, a Social Democrat security expert, played down Zeman's insinuations of political spying. Basta told the daily MLADA FRONTA DNES that none of the parties in the governing coalition had suffered break-ins because "the rich coalition parties have the money for better security in their party offices."

Czech Republic: Money-Laundering Law Finalized

96CH0063B Prague PRAGUE POST in English 27 Feb 96 p 1

[Article by Kathleen Knox: "New Law Makes It Harder To Launder Money"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After two and a half years of debate, the Czech Republic has a law on money laundering which, legislators hope, will wash away the country's image as one of Central Europe's biggest financial laundries.

The law will require all financial institutions, such as banks, brokerages, investment funds, insurance companies and casinos, to identify all parties involved in transactions of more than 500,000 Kc ($18,500), to maintain for 10 years records on anyone opening a bank account, and to report any "unusual" transactions to the Finance Ministry within five days. Failure to comply will carry a penalty of between 2 million Kc and 10 million Kc. Parliament overwhelmingly approved the law Feb. 15. It will go into effect July 1.

For some, the law does not go far enough. Deputies Vladimir Suman and Vladimir Rezac each failed in attempts to lower the 500,000 Kc ceiling for client identification to 200,000 Kc and 300,000 Kc, respectively.

Even Justice Minister Jiri Novak admitted the law would not be a cure-all.

"Its point is not, and can't be, complete eradication of money laundering," he said. "No similar law, which most European countries adopted in 1993 or '94, had this goal either. It will make it very difficult to launder dirty money, it will work as a preventative, and it will make it possible to uncover individual cases."

Ceskoslovenska obchodni banka (CSOB) spokesman Milan Tomanek said the law's effectiveness will depend on banks' savvy. "If banks are not very confident about what an unusual transaction is, they will report everything, and the system won't be efficient," he said.

Jaroslav Klapal, general director of Ceska sporitelna, said Feb. 19 that the Banking Association intends to propose to its members guidelines as to what kinds of transactions can be considered suspicious.

Typically, criminals find legitimate businesses to filter tainted cash through. Companies such as restaurants and casinos, where the value of items sold cannot be directly correlated with costs, are common covers. The thiefs then shuffle the money among different bank accounts. At the end of this wash cycle, authorities are unable to trace the source of the illegally earned money.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Politicians first showed their reluctance to deal with the problem under the Czechoslovak federation. In 1991, when he was still Finance Minister, Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus declared: "I do not know of a method of distinguishing dirty money from clean in practice."

Three years later, a debate on money laundering collapsed when legislators could not agree on which body should be the monitoring organ.

Novak said the Czech Republic was now in line with European Union countries, which have all passed laws against money laundering along 1991 European Community guidelines. The Czech Republic can now join the European Convention on Laundering, Tracing, Seizure and Confiscation of Proceeds of Crime, which Novak signed in Strasbourg, France, in December.

—Alex Friedrich contributed to this report

Czech Republic: Koruna's Exchange Rate To Be Liberalized

96CH0058B Prague PRAVO LIDU in Czech 13 Feb 96 p 1

[Article by Martina Martinovicova and Pavel Paral: "The Czech National Bank Is Preparing To Ease the Koruna Rate of Exchange"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Czech National Bank (CNB) is preparing to ease the exchange rate span for the koruna. That is what Jan Vit, vice governor of the CNB, told the CTK News Agency over the weekend at a conference in the United States, without mentioning a time frame.

Expanding the spread means that the CNB would make it possible for the koruna to weaken or strengthen against freely convertible currencies within the framework of the permitted span. Specialists estimate this span to be between 3 and 5 percent. "No decision was made regarding the method or the time frame for a possible change in the rate of exchange policy and, for the immediate future, it is not even expected," added Martin Svehla, CNB spokesman. But the other more frequent speeches made by CNB representatives lead to the expectation that the decision regarding the rate of exchange, which has been under consideration for more than a year, will not be put off much longer.

Currently, the rate of exchange of the koruna may change from its median exchange rate (which is set daily by the CNB and is made up of the daily rate of the German mark (65 percent) and the U.S. dollar (35 percent)) by 0.5 percent.

Expansion of the span is being proposed by a number of economic specialists, primarily so as to bring about a decline in the influx of short-term speculative capital to the Czech Republic, something that increases the amount of money in circulation and threatens to increase inflation. Foreign investors are making use of the high interest rates in the Czech Republic and are exchanging marks and dollars for korunas, which they are then depositing in Czech banks. In view of the fact that the koruna rate of exchange has thus far been very firm, they are virtually free of the threat of any loss risks. The easing of the movement rate of exchange would establish such a risk and deposits of money in the Czech Republic would become less advantageous for foreign speculators.

Czech Republic: Renewal of Trade With Bosnia Proposed

96CH0063G Prague PRAGUE POST in English 27 Feb 96 p 6

[Article by Julie Jette: "Czech Industry Hopes To Share in Bosnia's Revival"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With an uneasy peace still holding in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Bosnian government and international organizations are seeking help from foreign companies in restoring the war-torn infrastructure.

Czech companies, eager to reclaim what was once a key export market, would like to get in on the action. According to the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the former Czechoslovakia traded goods and services worth $150 million with the six regions of the former Yugoslavia in 1991.

"We are trying to renew our century-long tradition of trade with Yugoslavia," said Vaclav Brom, press spokesman for heavy engineering company CKD Praha Holding.

The basic infrastructure rehabilitation projects, which are scheduled to be completed in two phases within three years, will cost $5 billion, according to the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade. Projects include rebuilding power-production plants and distribution networks, reconstructing water and sanitation facilities, rehabilitating farms, and renewing roads, railways and public transportation.

Financing will come from the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), individual donor countries and a trust fund set up by donors. Companies' project proposals will be reviewed by the EBRD, the European Commission, the World Bank and the Bosnian government.

Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade officials said that projects should be presented by the end of February, the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

financing plans should be finalized in March. Approvals from the organizations involved will probably come in mid-April.

Nearly 70 companies attended a recent information session on the infrastructure projects at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and more than a dozen companies participated in a trade mission to Zagreb and Sarajevo Feb. 14-16.

Frantisek Malata, counselor at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, warned company representatives that the going won't be easy, and returns won't be quick. "Consider the fact that you are entering a near-war zone. The dangers are not 100 percent eliminated," he told seminar attendees.

According to the World Bank, between 2 million and 4 million land mines are lying in wait in the fields of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The costs for clearing them are estimated at $70 million for the first year alone.

The speed with which agricultural and infrastructure projects can begin depends on how swiftly those mines can be cleared. "We can't send our professionals to rehabilitate the power lines if they are going to be digging and a mine explodes," Malata said.

Brom acknowledged that trade with the former Yugoslavia will be risky business for some time to come. "We are currently assessing all the risks," he said. He also said that the assistance of the Czech Export Guarantee and Insurance Corporation (EGAP) would help to reduce the risk to individual companies.

Among those in attendance were such Czech industrial and banking giants as CKD Holding, Skoda Praha and Skoda Plzen, Chemapol, Ceskoslovenska obchodni banka and Zivnostenska banka. Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus is also scheduled to visit Zagreb and Belgrade soon.

Some companies hope to pick up where they left off, rebuilding or repairing Czechoslovak-made factories and facilities.

"Many of the factories have been destroyed, but some are still working," and some are partially damaged and could work again if they were repaired, said Malata. "Who better to do that than the supplier?"

Vit Zemanek, managing director of Skoda Trading, said that the former Skoda family of engineering companies had a history of power-generation and traffic and transport projects in Yugoslavia.

Prerovske strojirny, a north Bohemian engineering company, sent 10 percent of its total exports to Yugoslavia before the war, according to general director Zdenek Muzik. Its only major contract in the area during the war consisted of reconstructing a Czechoslovak-built plant in Slovenia, though it continued to supply spare parts to its customers in other regions. Now, the company would like to supply stone-grinding equipment and entire cement factories to the area. Just how much the company is able to provide, however, "will depend on the terms of payment and on what kind of export-support institution this country comes up with," spokesman Pavel Zahrada told news agency CTK.

Brom, at CKD Praha Holding, said his company has received fairly detailed information from the Bosnian government. "We are now trying to determine which of our products would best suit its needs," he said.

In the last 15 years, CKD supplied Sarajevo with 111 tram cars. Many of those were delivered for the 1984 winter Olympic games. Now, fewer than 10 trams are operating in the Bosnian capital, Brom said.

CKD has recently given two trams to the mayor of Sarajevo as a humanitarian gesture. But the company hopes to once again become the major supplier of trams and other goods, such as small locomotives, diesel engines, industrial coolers and freezers, waste-water purifiers and waste incinerators.

"We are now finding specific partners to work with," said Brom.

The question remains how well-positioned the companies are to take on the risk of major projects in Bosnia. CKD and many other major Czech industrial companies are still undergoing costly and painful transformations from state-owned monopoly suppliers to competitive commercial enterprises. CKD lost 806 million Kc (about $28 million) in 1993 and 1994. Zetor, another company interested in reviving trade with the former Yugoslavia, lost 2.2 billion Kc in the same period. Before the war, Zetor sold 1,500 tractors a year to Yugoslavia.

Some of the losses are due to bad loans left over from communist days, while others can be attributed to the collapse of traditional markets, such as Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Slovakia: Meciar on Penal Code Law, Basic Treaty, NATO

LD2903235096 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1733 GMT 29 Mar 96

[Regular Friday studio interview with Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar by editor Bernard Hornak—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Hornak] Prime Minister, it is more than probable that the president of the Republic will return to parliament the amendment to the Penal Code that has been approved. At least, this can be assumed on the basis of his statement during a working visit to Kosice. Have you expected this to happen? And, by the way, even before this legal norm reached parliament, it had caused a certain aversion on the part of the Assembly of the Confederation of Trade Unions as well as the Helsinki Committee and, naturally, opposition parties. Do you not have a feeling that it has damaged or will damage Slovakia, especially in terms of our foreign relations?

[Meciar] First, politics is not based on feelings, but on facts. We must asks ourselves whether or not Slovakia needs a law on the protection of the state. If we come back to this basic question, we will reach a conclusion that the answer is yes. This is a political decision. Everything else that is related to the content of the norm [law amendment] is a legal technical decision and we must know how to make a very strict distinction between the two.

If we are talking about a need to take a political decision about the protection of the state, we must take into consideration the realities that exist in Slovakia. There is a movement—Christian Democratic Movement [KDH, second largest opposition party] that openly promotes as one of its program goals five years of disruption so that there can be 1,000 years of peace. Adolph Hitler had such ideas when he was building his Third Reich. There are permanent and more and more intensive attacks on state bodies with the intention to disrupt them and discredit them morally and politically in the eyes of the public without any regard to facts, but precisely on the basis of impressions.

We know that there also exists a certain group of politicians proclaiming publicly that there is a need to call a referendum on the self-determination of minorities on the territory of Slovakia, which is nothing else but an attempt at irredentism and territorial division. They are saying openly that it is a nation, even though the nation is in Hungary, and that this nation has a right to self- determination.

If all this is happening at different intervals, not diminishing but growing, we must ask ourselves a question as to whether the state has a legal instrument for its protection. At present, we do not have such an instrument. Therefore, we have taken a political decision to submit such a norm to parliament and start a serious discussion about it since there is also a legislative vacuum.

We also had to take into consideration the fact that all parties of the government coalition had this in their policy statement—they had it in their election manifesto. Why should they implement the policy statement of the opposition and not their own?

The law is based on four basic interests that should protect the state—let me repeat: the state, not the president, not the government, not the prime minister or parliament—the state: first, territorial integrity. Slovakia's territory is unified, integral, and indivisible. Those who act against this must expect legal punishment.

Second, the disruption of the constitutional system. This can be dealt with in different ways. If the present stipulation counts on armed resistance, then it is not sufficient since armed resistance in not used at all in modern politics. It is an extreme that belongs to the arsenal of extremes; but other forms exist and there is no protection against them.

Third, it is the internal and foreign security of the state. State sovereignty means independence of state power from any other power both outside and inside the state. If somebody violates this sovereignty, he must expect to be sanctioned.

As far as further legislative process is concerned, yes, the law has been approved by parliament.

I condemn the actions taken by the opposition. They are behaving in a highly intolerant and uncivil way and have shown a great cultural intolerance. What right do they have to describe the government coalition deputies as fascists? What right do they have to call them publicly bandits? What right do they have to threaten them with prison and other [word indistinct]? This is where fascism begins, while it is not contained in the law in question. In fact, this law protects us from such forces gaining the upper hand in our state.

As regards the public's attitude to the law, I would like to draw your attention to an opinion poll which we were honest enough to carry out before presenting the bill. In the opinion poll, 58 percent of the population, drawing on their personal experience, are convinced about the necessity of such a law. The remaining respondents do not know, have not decided yet, or oppose the law. So

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

even opinion polls show that people think about these issues in a different way.

I would like to comment on one more aspect. As regards this bill being adopted in Slovakia, it is going through a normal legislative process, which means that within 15 days it can be returned to the National Council of the Slovak Republic [parliament] by either the government or the president. If the bill is passed, with the minority in parliament being defeated, the Constitution gives the right to this minority of deputies to present a proposal to the Constitutional Court, providing it is backed by at least 30 deputies, asking it to check whether the law does not violate the Constitution and, if this is the case, to repeal the law.

However, what is currently going on? Instead of respecting the valid legislative process and tackling the issue at home, even before the bill is passed, the Christian Democrats have sent letters to their partners in the European Democratic Union, including governments. The Party of the Democratic Left [SDL] has just sent a statement of its views to the Socialist International, [words indistinct] calling for their support. Their support for what? To support certain solutions in the sphere of internal affairs of our state? What other state has such clowns to do this? However, in our state, this has become a method of political work, a method with which I am unable to agree.

Regardless of how bad the law might be, it should be amended in harmony with the spirit of our Constitution and our laws. We have no need to take the steps I mentioned before [being taken by the opposition], to spread alarm and once again turn an internal political issue into an international one. Similar regulations exist in democratic states. Given that these democratic states have similar or identical regulations and do not consider them to be antidemocratic, these regulations should not be considered antidemocratic on the territory of the Slovak Republic, either. Let us learn our lessons from history and not from hysteria.

[Hornak] Unlike the Penal Code amendment, the ratification of the Slovak-Hungarian basic treaty has been positively received in the world. Only the addendum to the treaty which was passed by the deputies is being disputed. The fact is that the Hungarian side, first through its foreign minister and later its prime minister, insists that the addendum is not binding for Hungary. What is your view of this, given that it is the addendum to the document you personally signed, Prime Minister?

[Meciar] How can I know what the Hungarian side says? They have not briefed me about anything. I can acknowledge a statement by a government official only once I receive it properly.

The Slovak National Council passed a resolution which, first, approved the treaty and, second, noted that the treaty did not mention collective rights. The treaty speaks exclusively about human and civic rights, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities. Third, they called on all the bodies of the Slovak Republic, including the government and ministries, to respect its resolution. This is nothing unusual. [passage omitted]

As far as the treaty is concerned, the National Council of the Slovak Republic did not amend it. [passage omitted]

I consider this step [by parliament] to be correct and I support it. I can assure all citizens of the Slovak Republic that the government will respect the resolution adopted by the National Council and will act accordingly.

[Hornak] In his first reaction to the ratification of the Slovak-Hungarian basic treaty, Hungarian Prime Minister Gyula Horn said that a commission to control its observance should be set up very soon. What is the Slovak view on forming such a body? How do you imagine it should work, and what kind of experts should the commission consist of?

[Meciar] I am not going to comment on any statement by the Hungarian prime minister which I have not heard personally. [passage omitted]

[Hornak] NATO Secretary General Javier Solana will visit the Slovak Republic during his April tour of 12 countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Speaking recently in Paris, he stressed once again that the decision to enlarge NATO eastward is irreversible, but added that it is necessary to make it easier for Moscow to come to terms with this. Prime Minister, what is your view of these facts and what do you expect from the visit by the NATO secretary general to Slovakia?

[Meciar] The visit by the NATO secretary general to Slovakia is very important because since the previous visit by Secretary General Manfred Woerner, we have not been visited by any secretary general. So this is the second visit of historic significance by a NATO secretary general to Slovakia since 1990. Second, we participate in the Partnership for Peace program and we need an assessment of how we are fulfilling our responsibilities toward NATO, what is currently going on, and what is planned for the future. Third, we have to tackle the issue of NATO's enlargement, but at the same time also the issue of forming an all-European security system in order to avoid a split of Europe into two blocs.

In this context, I consider the visit by the NATO secretary general to be a very important step for the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited with permission of the copyright owners.

Slovak Republic and NATO as regards their progress in coming closer to each other and understanding each other. However, your question is a bit premature, as his visit is planned for the end of April.

Slovakia: List of Approved Territorial Divisions Published

AU2803131196 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 26 Mar 96 p 4

[Report by Elena Budinska: "New Slovak Republic Districts: Territorial and Administrative Arrangement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Council of the Slovak Republic [NRSR] decided on Friday [22 March] on the establishment of 79 districts [okres] in eight Slovak regions [kraj]. We publish the list of them:

Bratislava Region:

Bratislava I District
Bratislava II District
Bratislava III District
Bratislava IV District
Bratislava V District
Malacky District
Pezinok District
Senec District

Trnava Region:

Trnava District
Dunajska Streda District
Galanta District
Hlohovec District
Piestany District
Senica District
Skalica District

Trencin Region:

Trencin District
Banovce nad Bebravou District
Ilava District

Myjava District

Nove Mesto nad Vahom District
Partizanske District
Povazska Bystrica District
Prievidza District
Puchov District

Nitra Region:

Nitra District
Komarno District
Levice District
Nove Zamky District
Sala District
Topolcany District
Zlate Moravce District

Zilina Region:

Zilina District
Bytca District
Cadca District
Dolny Kubin District
Kysucke Nove Mesto District
Liptovsky Mikulas District
Martin District
Namestovo District
Ruzomberok District
Turcianske Teplice District
Tvrdosin District

Banska Bystrica Region:

Banska Bystrica District
Banska Stiavnica District
Brezno District
Detva District
Krupina District
Lucenec District
Poltar District
Revuca District
Rimavska Sobota District
Velky Krtis District
Zvolen District
Zarnovica District
Ziar nad Hronom District

Presov Region:

Presov District
Bardejov District
Humenne District
Kezmarok District
Levoca District
Medzilaborce District
Poprad District
Sabinov District
Snina District
Stara Lubovna District
Stropkov District
Svidnik District
Vranov nad Toplou District

Kosice Region:

Kosice I District
Kosice II District

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kosice III District
Kosice IV District
Kosice-Environs District
Gelnica District
Michalovce District
Roznava District
Sobrance District
Spisska Nova Ves District
Trebisov District

[Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak on 26 March on page 2 carries a 300-word TASR report on the outcome of the NRSR vote on the "government-sponsored bill on the territorial and administrative arrangement of the Slovak Republic." According to the TASR report, 141 of the 150 NRSR deputies participated in the vote, 82 of whom voted in favor, 52 against, and 7 abstained. The bill was endorsed by all Association of Workers of Slovakia and Slovak National Party deputies and by all but one Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] deputies. The bill was opposed by 16 Hungarian Coalition deputies, seven Party of the Democratic Left [SDL] deputies, 12 Democratic Union [DU] deputies, 16 Christian Democratic Movement deputies, and Michal Baranik from the HZDS. The seven parliamentarians who abstained were all from the SDL. As the report notes, the law will take effect on 1 July 1996.]

Slovakia: Defense, Transport Ministers' Integrity Questioned

AU2903164396 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 28 Mar 96 p 4

[Commentary by Chief Editor Pavol Minarik: "Sitek's and Rezes's Strong Coffee"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Jan Sitek and Alexander Rezes, chief of the transport, posts, and telecommunications department, got themselves into a mess recently. What is surprising is that they are not even trying to get out of it. Both have assumed the position of a dead beetle, apparently in the hope that, in Slovakia, every affair lasts three days and then falls into oblivion. I do not know what position other newspapers will assume, but our newspaper will demand an explanation from Sitek and Rezes. Their steps regarding the flights of a military and a private aircraft to the ball of the East Slovak Iron Works in Kosice have caused agitation in the public and, above all, raised doubts about their moral integrity. For this reason, but not only for this reason, it is impossible to sweep the whole matter under the carpet.

First and foremost, we are interested in Minister Sitek's reaction to the assertions of Deputy Pittner. Pittner announced that the defense minister had issued an order that, on 17 February, a military AN 24 aircraft take almost 30 prominent Bratislava residents to the ball of the East Slovak Iron Works in Kosice and, the next day, back to the capital. According to Pittner, in reality it was stated in the order that an inspection of military units in the Kosice garrison, planned by the minister, would be involved. This is strong coffee. Following such a serious accusation, there are only two possibilities. The first is that Pittner is lying outrageously and, in that case, it was necessary to disprove his lie right away. Yet a whole week has elapsed since Pittner's announcement, and Sitek is as silent as the grave. The second possibility is that Pittner is speaking the truth and the minister has nothing to add to it. In that case, he should draw personal consequences from this. As we have learned from high-level military circles, the second alternative is the truthful one. It is hard to say what Sitek will do. If it is confirmed that he really made himself guilty of lying and fraudulent conduct, we would not ask him to put a bullet through his head, but we would expect his departure from the ministerial chair.

Minister Rezes is in a similar situation. It has come to light that he frequently uses the services of Air Salzburg, a private air carrier, although he is not entitled to this as a government member. Rezes chartered an Air Salzburg aircraft to fly also to the ball of the East Slovak Iron Works, but declared that this was his private affair. "I can fly for my money anywhere I want," he told our newspaper. We do not doubt the minister's good financial situation, but we find it difficult to believe that one earns so much in the cabinet as to afford such luxury. If he has other sources of income, the public must be told about them. Moreover, we have learned that Rezes's flights are supposedly financed by a firm from Liechtenstein. If this proves to be true, it will surely be interesting to learn why this firm is doing this or, rather, what does it get in return?

About two and a half years ago, when one scandal after another broke out in the Czech Republic and there was total silence in Slovakia, I asked Prime Minister Meciar whether our politicians were more honest than in the neighboring country or whether Slovak journalists were simply weaker. The prime minister replied that the system of control and keeping a close watch over other people's fingers was such in Slovakia that affairs similar to those in the Czech Republic could not break out. Apparently, this was the case then. Today, however, the situation is different.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Hungary: Argument Against NATO Membership Presented

AU0104143396 Budapest REFORM in Hungarian 26 Mar 96 p 61

[Article by Tamas Csapody, legal expert, sociologist, and spokesman of the Alba Circle: "Leave Us in Suspense, NATO"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We must clarify nine basic misunderstandings regarding NATO, NATO's expansion, and Hungary's NATO membership.

In short, these are the following:

1. As an organization, it is in NATO's basic interests to expand because, after the Cold War, it has lost its legitimacy. Neither in the immediate future nor in the distant future will NATO members face a threat that justifies keeping this incredibly expensive military machine alive. It is also obvious that the current formulation of NATO's image as a peacekeeping and peace-creating force is part of its endeavor to seek a new profile. The interpretation of a NATO kept for such tasks can be quite spectacular; at the same time, however, it provides insufficient justification for keeping the organization alive.

2. NATO is a military organization, and not a political one. Of course, it is also a political organization, but this does not change the fact that, regarding its essence, it is primarily, firmly, and decisively a military organization. NATO has a military "character." It is a political organization only in the sense that it is controlled by politics, and it is under the exclusive supervision of the member states' politicians, just like the army in every democratic country.

3. The desire of the central and eastern European countries to join NATO has little to do with security policy. Although, given its "historic mission" or in order to achieve its own goals, the political elites of our region since the change in the regime are scaring their citizens with the Russian, Slovak, Hungarian, Romanian, Serb, and Slav threats and are seasoning all this with nationalistic tones, the issue of joining the NATO is primarily an integration, modernization, and economic issue.

4. We should not entertain illusions: In the name of euro-atlantic integration, they are dazzling us with glass marbles and miracle weapons. The West needs markets, cheap labor, profits, and bullet-shields, but no equality of rights, trade based on mutual advantages, and economic "equalization." One of the major messages of the five or six years since the change in the regime is that the West does not want to make this region comparable with them.

5. Europe cannot be "conquered" with a Hussar-blitz. NATO membership in itself does not mean belonging to the West or Europe even if NATO has been an organic part of Western thinking for almost 50 years. If, already, we do not feel that we are part of Europe in any way and we want to reach it through the integration organizations, then EU membership—rather than NATO membership—should provide the "entrance ticket" into Europe. Today, it has become more clear than ever on both sides that fulfilling the EU conditions is impossible within a foreseeable span of time. The "offer" of NATO membership and the "desire" to become NATO members represent movement toward an easier opposition on both sides.

6. One should not think that this region can escape its own destiny. Unilateral Western orientation—because NATO membership also means this—is as mistaken as the unilateral Soviet orientation used to be. The peoples of our region must live and subsist here, irrespective of which periphery we belong to and what the political elite say. Germany and Russia, the West and the East are equally important for us. Actually, it makes no difference how justified Russia's aversion toward NATO is, we must only take into consideration the fact and act accordingly, namely we must refrain from joining NATO.

7. The way things are at the moment, there will not be a multiphased expansion. The door will close behind those who make it in the first round, and those who remain outside will stay there baring their teeth in hunger and humiliation and will cry for revenge. And revenge will come in the form of armament, the assimilation of national minorities, narrowing markets, and the emergence of antidemocratic regimes and alliances (so NATO will finally get a new enemy and legitimacy!)

8. There is already considerable confusion on the deployment of nuclear weapons and foreign troops. This issue should be discussed clearly, not because, in a democracy, one does not keep quiet about issues that affect the entire population, but because there is indeed little chance that NATO will deploy nuclear weapons and foreign troops in central Europe in the vicinity of Russia in peacetime. The problem rather shows that the political elite is unable to tackle the conflicts and problems inherent in NATO membership.

9. It is useless to argue about NATO expansion, because NATO decided on this in January 1994, and the political elite in Hungary has a firm pro-NATO stand, the first agreements needed for joining the NATO have already been made, and, given the presence of the IFOR [Implementation Force] troops here, Hungary is de facto a NATO member. However, one should only argue

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

about NATO membership, and we should not spend 3 to 4 percent of the GDP on creating NATO compatibility as long as there is no referendum on this issue.

Hungary: Kovacs Explains Position on Slovak Treaty

LD3103211996 Budapest Duna TV in Hungarian 1600 GMT 31 Mar 96

[Interview with Hungarian Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kovacs] I think the fact—which was also mentioned by Ferenc Fejtoe [Hungarian intellectual living in Paris]—that Hungary and the Hungarian foreign policy has a good reputation in the West is not incidental. We have achieved it through our current European conduct. If we had chosen a verbal confrontation two years ago, if we had chosen the path of lecturing our neighbors or sharply attacking them, in addition to causing tension in bilateral relations and a worsening situation of the minorities there, we would probably have lost the goodwill and support of the international community.

[Correspondent] Does the possibility of the termination of the basic treaty exist?

[Kovacs] Naturally, in principle, this cannot be ruled out either. However, we are not looking for a solution in the direction of the treaty's termination, but its implementation. For, the termination itself would not solve anything. I do not believe that a terminated basic treaty would create better conditions for bilateral ties and I do not believe either that a terminated basic treaty would put the Hungarian community of Slovakia in a better condition.

Hungary: Romanian Ambassador Views Bilateral Relations

AU2903170096 Budapest UJ MAGYARORSZAG in Hungarian 29 Mar 96 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Romanian Ambassador Ioan Donca by Laszlo Roxin; place and date not given: "Hungarian-Romanian Reconciliation Has a Real Chance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Romanian Ambassador Ioan Donca gave us an interview about the current state of Romanian-Hungarian relations, the basic treaty negotiations, and reconciliation of the two nations.

[Roxin] Mr. Donca! In the past two years, you have been speaking quite optimistically about signing the Romanian-Hungarian basic treaty and about the general improvement of bilateral relations. How do you see this issue now when the recent intergovernmental negotiations have again failed to bring concrete results?

[Donca] Indeed, I have been optimistic lately, and there have been serious reasons for this. At this moment, I think that we have achieved considerable progress in our endeavor to make the basic treaty acceptable to both sides. The negotiations have been conducted in a natural and quite pragmatic framework. We must also take into consideration the fact that, in December 1995, President Ion Iliescu and Prime Minister Gyula Horn agreed in Madrid on the need for a high-level meeting soon, and that the basic treaty could also be signed on that occasion. It is a fact, however, that we will need more talks than expected in order to achieve this goal.

[Roxin] As far as I know, French and German mediators are also contributing to formulating the basic treaty.

[Donca] I am not aware of any such contribution; nor do I think that such mediation is necessary. A four-party Romanian, Hungarian, French, and German seminar was held in Romania in the middle of March on the issue of Romanian-Hungarian reconciliation; the participants mostly analyzed the French-German reconciliation and, of course, the elements that the Romanians and Hungarians could use as examples. I would like to point out that we are not talking about one model here because, in the course of future negotiations, we must find out a Romanian-Hungarian pattern that leads to reconciliation.

[Roxin] Both the Romanian and Hungarian public want to know whether the Hungarian churches in Romania will receive their schools and other real estate properties back before the signing of the basic treaty.

[Donca] The Romanian state does not reject any justified request, but there are also other churches in Romania, in addition to the Hungarian churches. The majority of our population is Orthodox, and the problems of the so-called national church have not been settled yet either; nor have the problems of other denominations been solved yet, like the problems of the Greek Catholics and the Jewish communities. I, personally, do not see how quick measures could contribute to solving these problems.

[Roxin] The new educational law adopted last year is the other big problem of the ethnic Hungarians living in Romania, a law that, in our opinion, restricts mother-tongue education in Hungarian schools and does not provide equal chances in university entrance examinations. In addition, all this threatens the preservation of identity awareness. Is it possible that the law in question will be modified soon in accordance with the demands of the ethnic Hungarians living in Romania?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Donca] Those who made such accusations against us regarding the education law admitted that the reality shows a totally different situation. Well-known Western politicians, including OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] National Minority Commissioner Max van der Stoel and FRG Bundestag Chairman Rita Suessmuth, visited Romania recently and declared that the Romanian educational law fulfills the highest European norms. But this is not the issue. In the case of a new law, as the parliament of any other country, the Romanian Parliament examines thoroughly whether the law in question is viable and the extent to which it takes into consideration the interests of the national minority in question and the common interests. If the law is not suited to the realities, some of its parts will be modified, but this also applies to other new laws.

[Roxin] You legislated a law recently that stipulates that citizens of the Republic of Moldova enjoy the same rights as the Romanian population regarding tourism in Romania, so they do not pay higher prices for hotel accommodations, like other foreigners do. Is it possible that this favor will be extended to other states as well, for example to Hungarian citizens who still come in big numbers to Romania and to Romanians living as a minority in other countries?

[Donca] Romania welcomes both the Romanians living in other countries and other nationalities visiting us with great respect. At the same time, I must point out that we have a special situation with the citizens of the Republic of Moldova, because we have started a multilateral economic, cultural and integration process between our two countries. As a first step, we provided the same favorable treatment to the Moldovan Romanians as to our own citizens. However, we consider the possibility of providing this favorable treatment to the broadest possible circle in the future.

[Roxin] Mr. Donca! In the past two years, you have also been optimistic regarding the opening of new public traffic border-crossing points between our two countries. As far as I know, the opening schedule is again being delayed.

[Donca] I visited the construction sites of the new border-crossing points recently, and I was satisfied to see that the construction work is progressing well. Of course, the tough winter caused some delay for both sides, but this can be overcome. I am convinced that the planned construction work will end this year, or at the beginning of next year at the latest. Border traffic between our two countries will ease considerably with the elimination of the Yugoslav crisis.

[Roxin] Along with this process, however, bilateral economic, tourism, cultural, and sports relations continue to develop. Thousands of fraternal relations are emerging between various communities in Hungary and Romania, contacts that cover almost all aspects of life. Even various districts in Budapest have set up such contacts. For example, the local government body of Lipotvaros District in Budapest set up such contacts with Gyergyoszentmiklos (Gheorghieni), and a delegation of the same district in Budapest visited the heads of Torocko (Rimetea) and Enlaka (Inlaceni) recently. Does the Romanian Government support the better development of this process?

[Donca] Our governments particularly support this development, because an increasing number of Romanian and Hungarian communities and institutions come into direct contact with each other. No doubt, this facilitates the Romanian-Hungarian reconciliation, something that, in my view, will be the result of a longer process. Therefore, it is necessary to sign the basic treaty as soon as possible, because this will reduce this process considerably.

Hungary: Horn Addresses Socialist Party Congress

LD3003145196 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1100 GMT 30 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The prime minister and Hungarian Socialist Party chairman has said at the Socialist Party congress that the Government will keep all the promises given to the social partners. [passage omitted] Kata Peli Nagy and Attila Kert report from the Socialists' congress:

[Begin recording] [Nagy] Gyula Horn said that anyone who wants to live a decent life is going through difficult times. He gave a realistic assessment of the effects of the transformation on society and added that the Government is not dealing with matters it would like to, but the situation dictates its scope of activity. Seventy percent of society have evolved as losers from the transformation and one-third of the population lives on the brink of poverty.

[Horn] The greatest challenge for the Hungarian Socialist Party is to find an answer to the questions of existential security. An effective economy creates the foundation for this; however, we have a long way to go to achieve this. Our task now is to stop pauperization and a decrease in real earnings so that we do not have starving and neglected people in Hungary.

I declare: Last year's drastic decrease of real wages will not be repeated in 1996. The Government will fulfil its undertakings set out in the agreement with the social partners; namely that this year's wages in the budgetary sectors can fall behind inflation by no more than 2

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

percent. However, the vital condition of maintaining and achieving this is for us to strictly adhere to the stabilization program set out for 1996.

[Kert] According to the head of government, the real challenge for the left today is to create an institutional system for social partnership. In this connection, Gyula Horn thanked the representatives of the trade unions present for managing to conclude a three-year agreement with the trade unions.

In listing the specific tasks in the near future, Gyula Horn gave a special mention to the critical situation of the Gypsies, which, in his view, is threatening to erupt; finding a solution for the problems of the young unemployed; transforming the pension system; and controlling the black economy. Talking about the tax system, he particularly stressed that the income tax rate would have to be reduced next year.

Gyula Horn is satisfied with the state of the coalition; as he said, the differences of views have been settled. As regards the behavior of the opposition parties, he said it is characterized by the same irresponsibility demonstrated during their time in government.

[Nagy] Ivan Vitanyi, chairman of the board, evaluated the work of the board so far by saying that other groups in the party have not been dealing with the results of disputes and statements. [as heard] He said that the party's work lacked long-term thinking. Now is the chance to rethink cultural policies and the policies regarding intellectuals, and to synchronize the work of the various party organizations. In his view, party membership has to be widened with representatives of other social strata and young people, too. As he said, the party is threatened by two dangers—defeatism and complacency. [end recording]

Hungary: Premier Horn Rejects Party Criticism at Congress

LD3103213396 Budapest Duna TV in Hungarian 1600 GMT 31 Mar 96

[From the "Weekly Courier" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] We continue to contend with problems that are characteristically East European—and Hungarian. These problems were discussed at the Hungarian Socialist Party's [MSzP] congress at which new leaders were elected. Here is a compilation on what happened at the congress.

[Correspondent] The MSzP's fifth congress to elect new leaders began with 101 delegates, 130 foreign guests, and 150 guests from Hungary. In a record time of 32 minutes, a decision was made on procedural issues and on the agenda, and then Gyula Horn, the party chairman, who is also prime minister, delivered his report.

[Begin Horn recording] The obvious consequence of Hungary's current conditions and of society's situation is that there is growing criticism of the government in the ranks of the MSzP. However, this must not be pointless self-agonizing. Let us begin the second half of the government's term in office by reaching agreement, first and foremost with one another.

We are compelled to accept that the government basically does not do what it would like to do, and not in the manner it wishes. Like it or not, the government's scope of action is determined by a large number of constraints and a dearth of possible alternatives.

Every section of society is encountering problems accumulated over years and decades. We must deal with these, because otherwise the entire country could be buried underneath them.

There has, no doubt, been an increase in nostalgia for the achievements of the Kadar regime under the impact of the increased social tensions and uncertainty in recent years. This perhaps is understandable—less so is the fact that many people are forgetting that those were the years when a considerable proportion of our heavy foreign debt burden accumulated. This, of course, is little consolation for the victims of the prolonged economic problems, of the atrophied social insurance system, of the deteriorating health service, of the increasing differentiation on the basis of incomes and property, and of organized crime.

According to calculations, some 70 percent of Hungarian society has lost out, at the moment, as a result of the transformation. The number of those under the poverty line has tripled, as compared with the 80's, and amounts to one-third of society. Hundreds of thousands of families have reached the point of completely using up their previously accumulated reserves. They did not live on a grand scale earlier, either, but at least they had a security of existence and modest savings. The bases of this situation have now been shaken.

It is scarcely consolation, but it is a fact, that the situation of society is similar or even worse in almost every country that previously had a party-state setup.

There is a Hungarian peculiarity stemming from our past that plays a role in our general frame of mind—we are characterized by frequently turning to the past instead of espousing a healthy vision of the future, by defeatism instead of confidence.

Why should we keep quiet about the fact that more foreign working capital entered the country than planned?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

That this capital influx goes hand in hand not with buying up a market, not with cutting jobs, but with creating them and strengthening our export capability? Why should we not be pleased that the Socialist government finalized the very important agreement with the International Monetary Fund—which had been lost by the previous government? Or that we have become a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which groups the world's developed countries?

Why are the MSzP and the government accused of not having a vision of the future? On the contrary: Not only do we have a vision of the future—our program maps out the path leading there. In its 20 months in office, the government of the MSzP, along with its mistakes, has had to contend with a host of faultfinders—with groundless attacks by the opposition, with the demagogic attempts by the Smallholders' leaders to influence public opinion. It has emerged that the opposition criticizes as irresponsibly as it governed.

Internal solidarity toward one another is of fundamental importance for me and for us. I cannot reconcile myself to this having weakened over the past 20 months. I personally accept the groundless, often vulgar attacks by our political opponents. However, I—and we—have difficulty accepting the accusations from the ranks of the party and from the political elite, because these deprive us of time, energy, and enthusiasm. They are nerve-racking, they wear down the people, they wear down the party—even the government.

I, however, am unwilling—for the sake of anyone's selfish intentions—to diverge from the policy aimed at sorting out the country's affairs.

This government, in bilateral relations and at international forums, has in the past, and will in the future, advocate the guaranteeing of rights of the Hungarians beyond the border.

One of our basic values is solidarity with society and with one another. We cannot allow anyone to weaken this. Let there be peace between us, so that we can build. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Hungary: Socialist Party Congress Reelects Horn

LD3103094396 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 0700 GMT 31 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Hungarian Socialist Party [HSP-senior coalition party] congress has reelected Gyula Horn party chairman with a sweeping majority. Magda Kosa nee Kovacs, former labor affairs minister, was elected the Number Two HSP official, that is the executive deputy chairman, with 390 votes of 750. Ferenc Baja, environment protection minister, was elected chairman of the national executive. He received 14 more votes than Ivan Vitanyi, former chairman of the executive.

The HSP congress elected as its deputy chairmen Bela Katona, former secret service minister; Gyoergy Janosi, former state secretary at the Ministry of Culture and Education; and Imre Szekeres, deputy group head.

Hungary: Privatization Minister Resigns, Quits Party

LD3103095196 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 0900 GMT 31 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tamas Suchman resigned his post of privatization minister and resigned from the Hungarian Socialist Party [HSP]. His motive was the 30 March vote on the reelection of party officials at the HSP congress in which he was not elected into the national presidium. Suchman evaluated this as a failure in a vote of confidence since he did not receive even 50 percent.

Hungary: Horn Still Counts on Suchman's Ministerial Work

LD3103112396 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1100 GMT 31 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Gyula Horn continues to count on the ministerial work of Tamas Suchman, who resigned from the party this morning. At the prime minister's closing speech at the Hungarian Socialist Party congress, he remarked on the departure of Tamas Suchman. He said Tamas Suchman was a valuable man for the party and he personally did not understand Suchman's step, particularly because the congress did not give a reason for his departure. It was a democratic decision not to elect him into the presidium and everybody had to accept it.

Earlier there was serious resentment against the appointment of Tamas Suchman as privatization minister, however, he proved himself with his work, Gyula Horn said.

Hungary: Resigning Minister Offers To Work for Government

LD3103181796 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1600 GMT 31 Mar 96

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are signs that a minister with no party affiliation will oversee privatization in the Horn government because Tamas Suchman does not wish to resign from this post. Attila Kert reports:

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Suchman] "I have been challenged to such an extent that it makes it impossible for me remain a Hungarian Socialist Party [MSzP] member. I wish a lot of success and good work for the party congress, as well as for the Socialists' parliamentary group, from which I also quit. I have offered to the prime minister that if he needs me as an independent expert in the government, I will be glad to carry on. Thank you."

[Kert] In his closing address to the congress, Gyula Horn reacted to Suchman's announcement. Horn said that Suchman's announcement had surprised him, but the Socialist Party could not be shaken by anybody's departure. He also added that Suchman could remain a government member if he did not make it impossible.

Asked by journalists at a news conference held after the congress, Horn used even more explicit words:

[Horn] "Suchman proved himself with his professional work over the past few months. Therefore, there is no obstacle to his future government membership."

[Kert] Although this morning Sandor Csintalan did not manage to convince Suchman to change his decision, others later phoned him trying to make him change his decision. Many thought it was not unsuccessful. Reacting to this, Mrs. Kosa, nee Magda Kovacs, the new executive deputy chairman of the party, told this program that the MSzP did not shut the door to Suchman.

[Kosa] "Respectable personalities and politicians have left the Socialist Party before, but the party has never expelled anybody from its ranks. Therefore, if Suchman, after all, thinks that his place is among us, we will be glad to welcome him."

[Kert] A short while before our program, Suchman himself spoke to us and said that, at least in the near future, he did not intend to change his decision. That is to say, he would not keep his membership in the party, only in the government.

[Suchman] "There is nothing final either in politics or life. I have seriously considered my decision today. I think that I could not do anything else after the evaluation by the congress yesterday. I cannot see into the distant future. Looking in front of me, planning only for tomorrow and the day after tomorrow, my decision can even be described as final.

"The other part of my decision is that I offered my services to the coalition government in the future. If the prime minister accepts this—I heard that he accepted it at the congress—I will carry on with my work. Although I quit the Socialist Party, I consider myself to be the same professed left-wing politician, as I was with the MSzP membership card in my pocket."

Hungary: Socialist Party Congress Supports Government

LD3103141996 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1400 GMT 31 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Hungarian Socialist Party congress gave full support to the work of the deputy group and the government, Gyula Horn, party chairman and prime minister, said at an international news briefing held after the closing day of the congress. Gyula Horn said the congress fits into the work process that began six years ago, which shows the correctness of the party line since there was no need for a major change. The prime minister said the departure of Tamas Suchman from the party and the deputy group did not rule out the possibility of him working as a minister.

Hungary: Socialist Party Official Interviewed on Congress

LD3103210496 Budapest MTV Television Network in Hungarian 1700 GMT 31 Mar 96

[Studio Interview with Magda Kosa, executive deputy chairwoman of the Hungarian Socialist Party, by an unidentified correspondent—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] What was the point in holding talks for two full days [party congress held 29-31 March] since you could hardly sleep, because you stayed awake for so late last night?

[Kosa] [Passage omitted] The congress amended its basic statutes, and what is more, at so many points that these basic statutes can be considered almost entirely new. [passage omitted]

The Hungarian Socialist Party congress took an important decision by strengthening the presidium's sphere of authority. I also consider it important that the presidium's composition and structure have been adjusted to its new strengthened authority.

[Correspondent] How much scope did critical voices have? When these documents were only under preparation, Gyula Horn said that the assessment given by the presidium was too critical and he simply returned it to the presidium. How far did this congress go in criticism?

[Kosa] The question of the extent of criticism expressed in the documents is a matter of personal judgement. I consider the fact entirely natural that opinions clashed over the content of the documents during the preliminary debate. This is how a democratic party operates.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The documents have, after all, been submitted to the congress and the debate, on the whole, confirmed the statements laid down in the documents. There were many critical elements in the debate, too. The contributions were analytical. There were no formal speeches. We were speaking about the work of the party and the government. That is our life. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Will there be a change, as a result of which cooperation between the government, party membership, and presidium will be closer than recently? This is precisely the field where the party presidium has been subject to the strongest criticism.

[Kosa] That is true. These critical remarks have been voiced by the party members, too. I am convinced that the amendment to the party's basic statutes gives us precisely the tasks, the fulfillment of which will bring this result. One of these very important elements is that the presidium will have to operate in a way that it should be able to ask for the opinion of party bodies and branches before important government and parliamentary decisions, forward its opinion to those who take decisions, and provide immediate, precise, and fast information about the decisions. The basic statutes created the organizational and operational framework necessary for this.

[Correspondent] How will this presidium be able to handle the platforms within the party? The party election results show that neither the left-wing group, nor the Hajos group, nor the trade union line gained really dominating positions.

[Kosa] The presidium does not have to handle the platforms, because the presidium is not above the platforms. The party itself is based on platforms. It is the party that has its presidium, and not the presidium that has its party.

[Correspondent] Yes, but recently there have been signs that these platforms felt they were oppressed.

[Kosa] I do not think that it is the presidium that oppresses the platforms, because the party is built from these platforms. One of the most important lessons to be learned from this congress for me is that this party is colorful in its thoughts and ideas, but the main direction of its thoughts point to one direction. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

B-H: Prime Ministers Assess Joint Meeting in Banja Luka

LD3003232796 Sarajevo Televizija Bosne i Hercegovine in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 30 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The three Bosnia-Herzegovina prime ministers met today in Banja Luka, with Carl Bildt [High Representative of the international community] being the mediator. Our crew returned from Banja Luka a few minutes before the news bulletin. Still, in the last twenty minutes they managed to prepare the following item. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording Kapetanovic, Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation prime minister] The main issues discussed were the supply of water and electricity to Gorazde. We have also expanded that cooperation to include the electricity system in the whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the supply of electricity to Krupa, Bihac, Banja Luka, and Trebinje. [end recording]

[Correspondent Mirza Sulejmanovic] The subject of the second half, we would say the more important part of the meeting, was the release of all POW's. The Serb side promised to release all POW's on 1 April.

[Begin recording Kasagic, Bosnian Serb prime minister] It should have been done today, but because of technical reasons the Croatian side was not ready to deliver. So—in agreement with the Croats—the release has been postponed until 1 April. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Sulejmanovic] Later in the day, the Bosnia-Herzegovina Republic and Federation government delegation met the Banja Luka Mufti Ibrahim Efendi Halilovic and Banja Luka Bishop Franjo Komarica.

Two church leaders informed the delegation on the extremely difficult situation of some 4,500 Bosniaks and 3,500 Croats in Banja Luka. Mufti Halilovic and Bishop Komarica appealed to all relevant international political leaders to do everything in their power for the respect of the basic human rights of the Bosniaks and Croats remaining in Banja Luka.

They also appeal for unhindered activity of Merhamet [Muslim charity organization] and Caritas [Catholic charity organization] and for exiled Banja Luka residents to start slowly returning to their homes.

Around 1700 [1600 GMT] the delegation of the Republic and Federation concluded its visit to Banja Luka. Before boarding the plane for Sarajevo, prime minister of the Bosnia Herzegovina Republic government [Hasan Muratovic] commented on today's talks.

[Begin Muratovic recording] There were no concrete results. It is true that the Serb side promised to release all POW's on 1 April. At the insistance of Bildt, the talks focused on prisoners remaining in our prisons. We have released all prisoners. The only ones remaining are the seven already convicted war criminals, and among them is Herak, [tried and sentenced in Sarajevo during the war] and the twenty suspected of war crimes.

Those twenty have been handed over to the Hague Tribunal. We expect the Hague Tribunal to say whether it will carry the investigation against them in Sarajevo or whether it will take them to The Hague or maybe release them. [end recording]

[Sulejmanovic] The next meeting at prime ministerial level is due to be held on 11 April, a day before the Brussels donors' conference, at which the sum needed for the start of Bosnia-Herzegovina's reconstruction is to be discussed.

B-H: Bosnian PM Calls on Bildt To Curtail Aid to Serbs

LD3103211096 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 31 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a report received minutes before the beginning of this news bulletin. Prompted by a meeting of the Joint Interim Commission that was held in Banja Luka yesterday, Bosnia-Herzegovina Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic has sent the following letter to high representative Carl Bildt:

In connection with your latest policy regarding the release of POW's and Bosnia-Herzegovina's economic reconstruction, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that your policy has been inflicting huge political and economic damage on this country. This is why:

The Bosnia-Herzegovina Government has released all POW's in accordance with the peace agreement. Seven people charged with war crimes, including Borisav Herak, are still kept in prison. There are further 20 war crime suspects who are also kept in prison. You said both at the meeting and in your statements for the media that we are obliged to release also these persons, which is absolutely untrue and absurd.

Annex 1-A, Article 9, Paragraph 3 of the peace agreement says: Persons for whom a founded suspicion exists of having committed such crimes have to be detained by all sides for the period of time necessary to carry out adequate consultations with the tribunal. On the basis of this article, we are awaiting a decision to be made by the international tribunal in connection with the detained persons in accordance with which we will further act.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

I am calling on you to stop misinforming the international community and to stop creating tensions among our population by demanding the release of war criminals, including Herak.

You are expected to be familiar with the cases of those people who have already been charged with war crimes, if you are dealing with the problems of war and peace in this country. In light of this, I expect you to stop linking the donor conference to war criminals. We neither sell war criminals nor the right to prosecute them.

Second, on several occasions in your recent letters and statements, you demanded that reconstruction projects in the Serb entity should begin. We and numerous representatives of the international community demanded that the population in the Serb entity be given only humanitarian aid and aid for the reconstruction of the most important joint infrastructure, until the current de facto government is replaced in that entity and until minimum conditions for the realization of human rights are created.

You know that de facto power in the Serb entity is held by two war criminals—Karadzic and Mladic. Economic aid to the Serb Republic is direct aid to the two war criminals who have been charged with war crimes. Through this position that you assumed, we are losing support by a large number of donators who are not ready to finance that regime. You are advocating that sort of aid, but I do not believe this is the will of the countries you represent.

I am demanding that you stop asking for aid for Karadzic and Mladic's regime and making efforts so that they should be handed over to the Hague Tribunal, and to link the economic aid to the implementation of the peace agreement and the respect for elementary human rights. The basic obligations for the sides is to cooperate with the Hague Tribunal, to enable refugees to return, and to respect human rights. Do you think about human rights in the Serb entity when you ask for economic aid for the Serb Republic?

I do not wish to recall what has happened here since you came, particularly the destruction of Sarajevo, but for the benefit of our future cooperation, I am demanding that you, when it comes to dealing with the aforementioned problems, act in accordance with the peace agreement and stop inflicting damage on our principled policy and economic damage on this long-suffering country and its people, says Hasan Muratovic's letter to Carl Bildt.

B-H: Steiner, Ganic on Signing Federation Agreement

LD3103152896 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 31 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The agreement on the Federation of Bosnia- Herzegovina was signed in Sarajevo last night [30 March] under the auspices of Michael Steiner, deputy to Bosnia's high representative. The agreement was signed by Kresimir Zubak and Ejup Ganic, president and the vice president of the federation, respectively; Federation Prime Minister Izudin Kapetanovic and [Finance] Minister Drago Bilandzija; and Republic Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic and [Republic Foreign] Minister Jadranko Prlic.

Michael Steiner and Ejup Ganic spoke about the signing of the agreement at a news conference today. Senada Cumurovic reports:

[Cumurovic] We have a good fresh start—this is how Michael Steiner described the signing of the federation agreement. He also presented the chronology of events leading to last night's signing ceremony. In this context he mentioned his talks with Croatian President Tudjman on Thursday—when the sixth and seventh cantons were formed—and the two-day talks between the federation partners in Sarajevo on Friday and Saturday.

Asked why this agreement was different from all others signed after the Washington agreement two years ago, Steiner replied:

[Begin Steiner recording, in English fading into Serbo-Croat translation] First, the federation partners reached very important decisions on the strengthening of the federal government. The governments of cantons and those municipalities that have not yet been established must be formed by 9 April.

The customs system must begin functioning by Monday, that is, tomorrow. The same applies to the system of payments [unclear whether this applies to introduction of single currency or financial transactions], which should be introduced by the end of April. All these tasks were assigned to specific persons, so that they represent a final program on the implementation of the federation, which should be completed by the end of April. [end recording]

[Cumurovic] Michael Steiner also listed three novelties in the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation agreement.

[Begin Steiner recording, in English fading into Serbo-Croat translation] First, it is expressly stated that the setting of conditions for the fulfillment of tasks will no longer be tolerated. Second, failure to discharge obligations will be punished by the withdrawal of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

financial assistance. Those municipalities and cantons found not doing their homework—so to speak—will not receive any money. Individuals not responding to their obligations will risk losing their jobs. [end recording]

[Cumurovic] The new agreement, which contains more than two dozen tasks, was described by Federation Vice President Ejup Ganic as a step forward.

[Begin Ganic recording] Three elements are important for the survival of this agreement. [Words indistinct] without the implementation of the customs union we cannot form financial and other institutions that would be accepted by the World Bank [word indistinct] in the reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The second element is an element of [words indistinct] the freedom of movement, return of refugees [remainder of sentence indistinct]. [end recording]

[Cumurovic] The first reporters' question to Steiner was why he believed that this particular agreement would be respected.

The success of the federation depends on four elements, Steiner said, citing the support of the international community—primarily in reconstruction, the necessary goodwill of the federal partners, the work of parliament, and the media, which should pay attention to how those responsible are fulfilling the tasks prescribed by this agreement.

Asked what had brought about the change [as heard], Steiner mentioned the talks with Tudjman and pressure on the federal partners.

Ganic added two more elements—the common people are in favor of the federation, so this imposes a moral obligation. Second, the building of the federation basically confirms that this could be implemented on the entire territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

B-H: 'Excerpts' From Text of Bosnian Federation Accord

LD3103170596 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 31 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The text of the agreement on the Bosnia- Herzegovina Federation was carried in full by BH PRESS, while we are carrying the most important excerpts in this bulletin.

The agreement contains basic responsibilities, the transfer of structures in the governments, special steps for the implementation of federal institutions, and the consequences of nonimplementation.

The section on the transfer of structures in the government says:

[Republic] Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic and [Federation] Prime Minister Izudin Kapetanovic will immediately take specific steps aimed at ensuring that the federal government has the opportunity and means necessary for the realization of its role envisaged by the Constitutions of [the Republic of] Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Federation. This will include the further crystallization and reduction of the role of cadres and other conditions for the work of existing ministries in the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The responsible officials of the Croat community will take immediate steps to ensure the transfer of personnel and other resources from existing civilian authorities and bodies in the territory of the Federation controlled by the Croatian Defense Council [HVO], as well as the imminent cancellation of these bodies.

The transfer of these resources in the Federation will begin immediately, and will be completed by 10 April, especially:

A. In the area of finances: This will include transfer from the level of the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina to the federal level of all personnel, office premises and other resources necessary for the implementation of policies and the operational duties of the federal Finance Ministry. The same will apply to the transfer of personnel and resources of the financial administration on HVO- controlled federal territory.

The resources remaining at the level of the government of Bosnia- Herzegovina will be those sufficient for its now limited functions;

B. Internal affairs: As envisaged by the Constitutions of Bosnia- Herzegovina and the Federation, there will be full transfer to the Federation or, where applicable, to the cantonal authorities, of personnel and institutions on the level of the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina, including the Agency for Research and Documentation and bearing in mind the jurisdiction of the Federation and the existing civilian authorities and bodies on HVO-controlled federal territory;

C. Defense matters: The federal ministry will become operational in accordance with the federal law on defense, not having to wait for a defense law at the level of the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which should be passed after the general elections;

The section on the consequences of nonimplementation says:

The cantons will not receive any funds from taxes that are to be divided, or from the transfer, until they elect a government and establish adequate operational structures. The same will apply to municipalities that

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

have not adequately formed their transitional municipal councils and have not appointed their officials.

This applies to funds from the international community and to funds from the central and federal governments and the existing civilian authorities and bodies on HVO-controlled federal territory.

Aid for the restoration of homes—excluding basic humanitarian aid—will not be forthcoming to communities that do not permit the return of displaced persons and refugees.

In line with Article 8 of the Geneva Declaration that stipulates that only those officials who are truly devoted to the fundamental principles of the federation and the implementation of the agreed measures should take up positions in the public offices of federal institutions, [Federation] President Kresimir Zubak and Vice President Ejup Ganic have assumed the obligation to remove from office all those mentioned in the agreement as responsible for specific tasks and deadlines, in cases where these deadlines are not met.

In cases where the president, vice president, and prime minister so agree—or the federal parliament determines—that third parties are responsible for the nonimplementation of certain tasks or deadlines, these third parties are to be removed from office.

In cases where the president, vice president, and prime minister so agree—or the federal parliament determines—that objective reasons have prevented the meeting of deadlines, responsible officials will not be ejected from office.

At federal parliament sessions held following the expiry of the aforementioned deadlines, the president, vice president, and prime minister of the federation will submit a joint report on specific personnel changes and other decisions to the federal parliament.

Signed in Sarajevo on 30 March 1996.

B-H: Ganic, Perry Give Statements After Talks in Sarajevo

LD3103212396 Sarajevo Televizija Bosne i Hercegovine in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 31 Mar 96

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Unidentified correspondent] U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry has arrived in Sarajevo. Without intending to be disrespectful to the eminent guest, the first minutes of our news bulletin had to be devoted to the Federation, which was also one of the topics discussed by Ejup Ganic, member of the state Presidency and vice president of the Federation, and the U.S. official.

Following the talks, William Perry and Ejup Ganic gave brief statements to numerous reporters. Ganic said that he was very pleased after the talks with the U.S. guests and mentioned the importance of U.S. financial aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina, stressing that it would help resolve numerous problems and, particularly, employ demobilized soldiers. That is what we wanted to hear from our respected guest, Dr. Ganic said, and added:

[Ganic, in English] "We hope that this idea will be transformed into some quick financial help so that all those who are demobilized from the army can look forward to putting energy into building and reconstructing our country."

[Correspondent] Ganic said that they also discussed the Federation, and even greater political support from the U.S. friends was requested. The U.S. secretary of defense said he was satisfied with the agreement on the Federation and added that the military mission was going well, pointing out that certain problems can be expected. However, according to Perry, difficulties can be solved.

[Perry, in English] "I again stressed the need for full compliance with the Dayton agreement. In that regard, the IFOR [Implementation Force] is going to make more vigorous actions in the future to ensure freedom of movement throughout all of Bosnia. Freedom of movement is not only important for the military mission but is key to the successful civil efforts that are going on in parallel with the military activity in Bosnia." [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] The issue of Radovan Karadzic's and Ratko Mladic's arrest was unavoidable. Ganic said that IFOR is able to carry out this task, but left the response to this question to Perry, who was very brief:

[Perry, in English] "I just commented. I did not expect either Mr. Karadzic or General Mladic to be in positions of power by the end of this year."

[Correspondent] Commenting on IFOR's one-year mandate, Ganic said that we must be certain that the system was viable before IFOR's departure. This includes the train and equip program. However, the most important thing is that the United States has to continue playing their role in this respect, Ganic said.

B-H: Ganic, Muratovic Sign Agreements With World Bank

AU0104112396 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 1 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ejup Ganic, member of the republican Presidency and vice president of the Federation, and World Bank President James Wolfensohn

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

today signed [word indistinct] on the membership of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the World Bank. Following this, Hasan Muratovic, prime minister of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Mr. Wolfensohn signed three agreements on a loan amounting to $75 million as this bank's direct participation in aid of $269 million. The difference will be ensured by donors of these three (?loans), and concern aid for reconstruction of transport amounting to $35 million, water supply projects amounting to $20 million, and a loan for agriculture amounting also to $20 million.

The transport projects apply to establishing priority links and [word indistinct] in Bosnia-Herzegovina for roads, bridges, tunnels, railroads, the Sarajevo airport, and city transit. Water supply projects apply to the reconstruction of this sphere, while the loan for agriculture will be invested into mechanization and development of this sector.

B-H: $12-Million Aid Memorandum Signed With EU

AU0104113796 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 1 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Neven Tomic, republican minister for foreign trade and communications, today signed a memorandum of understanding with European Commission envoy (Hans Christian Staubal) on the realization of the first part of the EU donation, amounting to $12 million for the reconstruction of transport and communications in our country. Involved is a donation that will be arriving in Bosnia-Herzegovina in kind. The first $12 million, Minister Tomic said, will be used for purchasing city buses, trolley buses, tramways, and spare parts. Aid will be given to all city transportation firms in all big centers in Bosnia-Herzegovina: Sarajevo, Tuzla, Zenica, Banja Luka, Mostar, and Bihac. The memorandum on the remaining $13 million is expected to be signed in the coming 10 days. This is a part of the $152 million project approved by the World Bank. So far, the EU and the World Bank have approved $35 million each, and considerable aid is expected from donor countries at the coming donors' conference in Brussels.

B-H: World Bank Official, Muratovic on Importance of Loans

AU0104144796 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 1 Apr 96

[Report by Senada Cumurovic on statements by World Bank President James Wolfensohn and Bosnia-Herzegovina Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic in Sarajevo on 1 April—recorded; Wolfensohn and Muratovic speak in English with superimposed Serbo-Croatian translation]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Cumurovic] After the ceremonious signing of the membership and the agreements on loans, Mr. James Wolfensohn, the ninth president of the World Bank, gave a statement to the numerous local and foreign reporters, in which he assessed the contents and value of the signed agreements.

[Wolfensohn] I am very pleased that we signed three agreements today. The first one refers to transportation, for which the bank has given a $35 million loan out of the overall $149 million cost. This amount will be used for the urgent reconstruction of roads, bridges, city transport, railways and the Sarajevo airport. The other agreement signed here refers to water supplies, for which the bank has set aside $20 million out of the overall $70 million needed for the reconstruction of the water system. The third agreement refers to agriculture, also to the amount of $20 million set aside by the bank, while the overall project will cost just over $50 million, which includes enabling farms to start production, equipment, and the necessary means to get the project under way. The World Bank is working together with the government on improving the economy and the lives of the people in this country.

[Cumurovic] Bosnia-Herzegovina Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic stressed in his statement the importance of Bosnia-Herzegovina's reconstruction for the establishment of stable peace, to which the agreements signed in Sarajevo today would contribute.

[Muratovic] I would first of all like to thank President Wolfensohn and his associates for working so hard on the reconstruction project for Bosnia-Herzegovina. They believed that the war was over and that Bosnia-Herzegovina's reconstruction was the only way to establish a real peace here. We have been working very hard and now we are at the beginning of Bosnia-Herzegovina's reconstruction. We hope that this is a sign of support by the international community of donators. Every one of these projects consists partly of a loan given by the bank and the remnant to be provided by the donators at the Brussels conference. Because of that, these projects can be realized only if the Brussels conference succeeds. We hope that the international community will follow the example of the World Bank and fulfill its promises and obligations that stem from the Dayton agreement, since that is the only way to establish peace and continue the process of economic reconstruction.

[Cumurovic] The representatives of one of the most important international financial institutions, the World

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Bank, will still be in Sarajevo tomorrow, when they will hold a news conference.

B-H: Minister Assesses War Damage to Agriculture, Forestry

AU2903182296 Hanau NOVA BOSNA in Serbo-Croatian 29 Mar 96 p 5

[Report by ONASA: "Damage Exceeds $4.5 Billion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sarajevo, 28 March (ONASA)—Ahmet Smajic, minister of agriculture, forestry, and water resources in the Federation Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina, believes that the basic problem facing Bosnia-Herzegovina's agriculture is lack of space.

"We have the people, but we do not have enough room for them," Minister Smajic said, adding that Bosnia-Herzegovina will depend on the import of oil and sugar, as well as meat, milk, and dairy products, for years to come because its livestock is totally devastated.

"We assess that the loss in livestock amounts to more than 500,000 head," Smajic says.

During the aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina, its agriculture suffered $4.5 billion-worth of damage, its forestry more than $3 billion, and its water resources around $1 billion. A great part of the forest reserves was transferred to the so-called Serb entity in Bosnia-Herzegovina during the aggression.

To the question of what the Ministry is doing to make up for damage and restore the resources, Minister Smajic said that the relevant ministry is maintaining contacts with representatives of the World Bank, the EU, and other international government and nongovernment organizations, where it is trying to obtain the means for urgent intervention.

B-H: Silajdzic Sees Sarajevo as 'Victory' for Karadzic

AU2903174796 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 27 Mar 96 p 4

[Interview with Haris Silajdzic, former prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina and chairman of the "Party for Bosnia," by Norbert Mappes-Niedieck; place and date not given: "Conspiracy of Silence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mappes-Niedieck] Are you satisfied with the Dayton peace agreement?

[Silajdzic] There is a conspiracy of silence about Bosnia's disintegration that is taking place. I want to break this silence. If the principle of ethnic division is introduced, it will danger the peace in Europe.

[Mappes-Niedieck] What kind of danger?

[Silajdzic] Serbia is only 60-percent Serb; just think of Sandjak, Kosovo, and Vojvodina. Then there is Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM]: If there is a Greater Serbia, why not a Greater Albania, a Greater Bulgaria? All national issues in East Europe would be revived. Bosnia would lose its integrating function as a bridge and a catalyst. The most important integrating factor, the Bosnian Muslims, would be forced into a ghetto, where they would have to fear for their survival. Then the accusation of fundamentalism will become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

[Mappes-Niedieck] Was the so-called reunification of Sarajevo a victory for Karadzic?

[Silajdzic] Yes, this was a victory. The fires in the city were symbols for the victory of ethnic cleansing. And that after we defeated fascism! It is as if you lose a soccer game in the second half. After 200,000 dead, the message is: Ethnic cleansing is okay. And the only thing the international community has to spare for Bosnia are a few lamentations.

[Mappes-Niedieck] How could the exodus of Serbs have been prevented?

[Silajdzic] By arresting Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, who organized all of it.

[Mappes-Niedieck] You left President Alija Izetbegovic's ruling "Party of Social Democratic Action" (SDA) and founded the new "Party for Bosnia." Why now?

[Silajdzic] It is true that I left the SDA. I resigned from my job as managing Executive Committee member almost two years ago. I do not believe in party work during the war. My number one goal is a unified and sovereign Bosnia.

[Mappes-Niedieck] Is the SDA no longer a "party for Bosnia"?

[Silajdzic] One must look at what is really happening. I no longer believe so much in words. Not enough has been done.

[Mappes-Niedieck] Is it only a question of efficiency or are there also strategies that deviate from the goal of a unified Bosnia?

[Silajdzic] Some Bosnians bow to the principle of ethnic cleansing.

[Mappes-Niedieck] Do you think your new party has any chance after all that has happened?

[Silajdzic] Oh yes, support is greater than I expected. The people are fed up with the one-party systems. They

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

have fought for Bosnia-Herzegovina, not for the old communist system.

[Mappes-Niedieck] You want to open an office in Banja Luka with your party. How are the people supposed to get to know your program?

[Silajdzic] The program is very simple: reintegration. The "Party for Bosnia" is actually as old as Bosnia itself. Those who belong to it were intimidated and killed for their belief in Banja Luka. When the people really see an alternative, many will seize the opportunity.

B-H: 'Compromise' Seen Possible on U.S. Demand on AID

AU0104093396 Sarajevo FOCUS in Serbo-Croatian 21 Mar 96 p 2

[Article by Nerzuk Curak: "Foreign 'Intelligence Forces' on Secret Mission: How To 'Kill' Bosnian Intelligence Services?!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although about ten days ago it looked as though the Americans would be satisfied with the abdication of Bakir Alispahic from the leading post in the main Bosnian intelligence service, and that, accordingly, they would not interfere with the structure of AID [Agency for Investigation and Documentation], suddenly everything changed. Today it can clearly be seen that the American demand for disciplinary measures to be imposed on some Bosnian Government officials has become a demand to wind up the recently formed AID.

Why has such a change occurred, and was it to have been expected? Why do the Americans insist on reducing the Bosnian intelligence apparatus, when such a thing is highly illogical and disputable with regard to the United States' interests in Bosnia? Namely, if the Americans leave Bosnia in one year, why would they wish to leave the state in whose survival they have invested significant political, and even military effort, without any protection after their departure, to the mercy and the mercilessness of the European, Serbian, and Croatian secret services, which roam around our country any way?

And if they intend to stay in Bosnia for more than a year, does that mean that CIA, DIA, and other U.S. secret services will take over responsibility for the protection of the Bosnian state from possible terrorist and other attacks under the auspices of Belgrade and Zagreb? It seems that American pragmatism cannot take that level of responsibility for a country that is not really at the top of the United States' geopolitical interests, despite the strong influence of its military force in the implementation of the Dayton agreement. What, then, is the case?

Croatian Lobby Destroys AID

What it is, in the first place, is the United States' intention to push Iran completely out of this region, and, in Washington's interpretation, AID was under the direct influence of Iran. The Americans go so far as to say that some Bosnian state officials were paid by that big Asian country!?

According to one Bosnian Government source, the White House not only demanded Alispahic's departure, but also that of his closest assistants, Ugljen and Ljevakovic, and in the final recapitulation of the "Pogorjelica case," there were also plans for a complete blockade of AID, which would bring about its termination. However, it seems that in discrediting AID a big role was played by Croatian policy.

It is an open secret that, of all the lobbies from the territory of former Yugoslavia, the Croatian lobby is most present in the United States. In that way, Croatian lobbyists managed to persuade Senators Dole and Lieberman to write a letter to President Izetbegovic in which they attacked AID, demanding that it be "suppressed," while there is no doubt that the Bosnian lobby did not manage to explain to Washington in an adequate way the reasons for the creation of AID as a civilian intelligence and security agency.

There are a number of arguments to support the presidency's decision to create this agency. The fact that it was a decision of the collective head of state shows the legitimacy of the agency's creation. On the other hand, there is in Bosnia at the moment a whole number of foreign intelligence services (from the American, Jewish, then British, French, and other European countries, not to mention the Croatian and Serbian "intelligence forces," which the United States, as the "world's policeman," has not done anything to reduce)—and that is the crucial argument for the defense of our "investigators and documentarists." After all—a few kilometers away from Sarajevo, in Kiseljak, the popular summer resort of Croat secessionists, there is a branch office of the powerful Croatian Security Information Service (SIS), which functions perfectly! And how could one destroy one's own intelligence apparatus now, when the secret service of a state that seems to have no intention of becoming friendly to us functions right next door to us.

Could There Be an Attack on Messrs. Talijan and Jasarevic?

Therefore, it seems highly advisable to organize a debate in the Republic parliament, which would present all

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

sound arguments on the basis of which the Bosnian security system must not be challenged. And there are many arguments, beside the ones we have cited. AID has its function as long as the Hague tribunal exists, it can be seriously used in combating international crime and the like, and therefore, pressure must be resisted and this organization retained.

Of course, if there is a need for a thorough transformation of AID's structure, i.e., if there is a need to change the people and to bring others to join Ademovic, that can be done too, but the important thing is that, in the structure of this service, there are professionals, par excellence, who in this war have already proved their integrity, which is necessary for work in such services.

The question that looms over this topic like a bad omen is—can the United States' demand be expanded to other services, like military departments of intelligence and security nature?

Can, in some gloomy scenario, Talijan and Jasarevic, as heads of these departments, also become unsuitable? What would happen if, for example, the Ministry of Defense formed its own intelligence service? Having in mind the presence of Hasan Cengic in this ministry, who is known as an Iran man, the Americans would probably carry out a fierce raid there as well.

According to some information, Hase Tiric, commander of the "Black Swans" [elite unit of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army] and a man of unimpeachable integrity, should soon become Jasarevic's deputy in the security department. If that is true, then that is a good move, which would "shake up" the JNA [former Yugoslav People's Army] structure of the security apparatus. But, is it possible that one day the Americans might not find this move suitable either, and demand new "cadre concessions?" A serious country must have ready answers in this respect.

American Investment

In any case, we have fulfilled the undertaking that the Americans asked us to fulfill. Looking at Bosnia-Herzegovina's geostrategic position, separation from Iran was necessary and appropriate. There is nothing else for us to do but to say openly to the Americans: "What do you offer, and what do you demand? If what you offer is at least on the same level as what you demand, there is no reason for us not to be able to meet in the political middle, as a place of compromise."

And if some independent Bosnian commission were to establish that certain state officials really did take money from Iran in order to promote the interests of that friendly country, then that would be another argument in favor of turning to the United States even more, and thus finally transferring the conflict between the United States and Iran outside Bosnia.

Maybe the Americans would then start investing in our intelligence system. And without big investments, that apparatus will hardly be able to cope with the huge number of services that are active in the Bosnian country, creating terrain for the implementation of the political messages of their countries. And those messages go much more in a destructive direction than in a constructive one.

After all, precisely some European intelligence services "feed" the new Croat-Bosniak war, about which you can read on the next page of our paper.

B-H: EU's Koschnick Sends Farewell Letter to Izetbegovic

LD3003195296 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 30 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Leaving his post of EU Administrator for Mostar, Hans Koschnick has sent a letter to Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in which he thanks him for his support during his mandate in Mostar.

I am leaving Mostar with the feeling that I have helped people, but I could not foresee that misery and misfortune in this region were still quite unevenly distributed, Koschnick said in his letter.

The EU administrator in Mostar said that his primary task and objective was to preserve the European identity and integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina in which the cultural and ethnic independence of different parts of the population are safeguarded.

It was always my intention to help people in Mostar who suffered the most from the war and its consequences. This help cannot only apply to purely humanitarian and technical aid, but must also include the unification of the divided city, the letter says. Koschnick said that all parties did not show the same level of interest in the implementation of the signed agreements, and that in Mostar the legal principle [words indistinct] clashed with the habit to use only what benefits one's own side.

The EU administrator said that his resignation was not a result of the troubles in the city itself, but also a reaction to diplomats' expectations of what he could be expected to do.

As I am leaving you and the support you have given me with positive feelings, it will greatly please me if you could extend all the necessary support to my replacement, EU Administrator Hans Koschnick said in his letter to President Izetbegovic.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

B-H: Koschnick Says Sarajevo To Decide Dayton's Fate

LD3003154396 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1533 GMT 30 Mar 96

[By Slobodan Jankovic]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bonn, March 30 (TANJUG)—Outgoing E.U. Administrator of Mostar Hans Koschnick said Saturday he doubted the Dayton Peace Accords on Bosnia-Herzegovina would be realized.

Koschnick, who leaves office on Sunday, said in an interview to Deutschland Radio of Berlin that Sarajevo was now the crisis spot. He said the Muslim-Croat Federation in Bosnia-Herzegovina would start functioning if the situations in Mostar and Sarajevo were resolved successfully.

The binational federation was formed in March 1994 at the initiative of the United States and, under the Dayton Accords, it makes up Bosnia-Herzegovina with the Bosnian Serb entity of Republika Srpska.

Koschnick, formerly a successful mayor of the German city of Bremmen, did not want to comment reports from the field that local Croat police were still preventing Muslim refugees from returning to their homes. He recommended to the European Union to use pressure on the Croat side and not approve funds for its reconstruction as it had openly declared it was not interested in peace.

"If they do not want that, then nothing should be given to them," Koschnick said and added that Croatia had no place in European bodies because of this, nor should it be promised any "special services" by the European Union.

Koschnick said the most important task of his successor, Ricardo Perez Casada of Spain who will be Mostar administrator until the end of the year, would be "to win the confidence of the Croat side." He said he believed "a new figure will manage to do this more easily."

Speaking about the upcoming elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Koschnick said the planned term in July might be changed. Under the Bosnia peace accords, elections should be held in Bosnia-Herzegovina by the end of September this year.

Koschnick is returning home evidently disappointed in his experience with Croats during the past 20 months spent in Mostar. In early February, following a series of failed attempts to secure agreement on a territorial organization of Mostar, Koschnick decreed that this biggest town and the regional center of Herzegovina would be organized into three Croat and three Mostar zones each, and a central one where Croats and Muslims would share power. Displeased Croats organized mass demonstrations in which the E.U. office in Mostar was demolished and Koschnick himself attacked.

Subsequently, considering he had not been given sufficient support from the European Union, Koschnick resigned his post.

B-H: Croat Police Stop Bosniaks From Visting Mostar Homes

LD2903195896 Mostar Radio-Televizija Mostar Radio in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 29 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Around 100 citizens from East Mostar today blockaded the road leading from the city center to the southern suburb of Jasenica. The protesters are actually expellees from this part of Mostar—now controlled by Croat authorities—who wished to visit their homes in an organized manner.

According to information from a source that wished to remain anonymous, Croat policemen told the refugees that they could not get out of the bus during their visit to Jasenica.

In protest the citizens expelled from this suburb blockaded the road leading from the center of Mostar to the suburb. Traffic on the road was blocked until 1400 when, according to Mostar police, agreement was reached at the EU administration headquarters that the Jasenica expellees would be allowed to visit their homes and cemeteries tomorrow. The visit will take place under IFOR [Implementation Force] protection.

Today's events clearly show that real and complete freedom of movement on the territory of the federation remains nonexistent, despite all the agreements signed so far.

B-H: Group of Bosniaks Visits Brcko Cemetery

AU2903202796 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 29 Mar 96

[Report by Admir Kadic]

[FBIS Translated Text] The expelled residents of Brcko living on the free territory today visited their town and the graves of their relatives for the first time in four years. Admir Kadic reports:

[Kadic] Thanks primarily to the exceptional efforts of the IFOR [Implementation Force] from this area and the international police, as well as the correct conduct by the policemen from the Serb entity, the expelled residents of Brcko entered the town by bus and held a service for their dearest at the cemetery.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Before reaching their destination, the residents of Brcko saw from the bus, which was traveling near the main part of the town, rows of destroyed Bosniak houses on both sides of the road. No one is living there now, and it appears that no one intends to live there until we return.

During our half-hour stay in the town, we saw only two cars, one with Serb Sarajevo number plates and the other with Belgrade number plates, which says enough in itself. When we came to cemetery, the Serb police did not allow us to get close to a group of Brcko residents on the other side of the road, who were secretly waving to us with tears in their eyes.

Since the representative of the Serb police, Zarko Cosic, could not guarantee our safety everywhere in the cemetery, which has been neglected but not devastated, we held a service at one location despite the constant provocations by a group of Serbs, who, judging by their accents, were not from Brcko. They swore at us and hurled stones at us and the buses.

The expelled residents of Brcko returned to the free territory in a dignified manner. By not responding to the provocations, they demonstrated once again that Brcko should and must be given exclusively to the residents of Brcko and not to those who, by throwing stones us, want to hide their fear, fully aware that Brcko has never been and will never be theirs.

B-H: UN Police Threaten Federation With Sanctions

LD2903212896 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2105 GMT 29 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, March 29 (TANJUG)—The international police of the United Nations threatened on Friday the Muslim-Croat federation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) with economic sanctions if it continued refusing cooperation with observers of the international police and violating the Dayton Agreement.

U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo Alexander Ivanko said that, if the authorities of the Muslim-Croat Federation carried on with evading cooperation, High Representative of the International Community Carl Bildt would be requested to apply political and, if necessary, economic pressures on the federation, including reduction of funds for reconstruction.

U.N. police complained the third straight day that the federation police were not fulfilling provisions in the Dayton Agreement.

Cooperation with Serb police forces in the BiH, however, was very good, Ivanko stressed.

Ivanko said that the latest incident took place on Thursday when federal police arrested a Serb, official translator of the U.N. police, and allowed international observers to see him under very restricted conditions.

The observers were not permitted to meet the translator without witnesses, nor to talk with him about the reasons why he was arrested.

The Muslim-Croat federal police jailed the translator on March 12 and kept silent about the arrest for 11 days. The arrest became publicized only after his wife notified the U.N.

Ivanko said that whenever the U.N. wanted to see the arrested, they were directed to the judge who would then say you would be able to see him only after the investigation was over.

Ivanko announced that U.N. police official Peter Fitzgerald advised Friday the Justice Minister of the Muslim-Croat Federation, Mate Tadic, that the U.N. police, according to the Dayton Agreement, was entitled to tour any facility in which arrested persons were kept and see any of the arrested without seeking any permission beforehand.

B-H: Kasagic: All POW's To Be Released 1 Apr

LD3003175796 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1718 GMT 30 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Banja Luka, 30 Mar (TANJUG)—After meeting Carl Bildt and Muslim Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic in Banja Luka today, the prime minister of the Serb Republic, Rajko Kasagic, told TANJUG that "all POW's will be released on Monday [1 April]."

Kasagic said their release had been agreed for today, but was postponed because the Croat side could not fulfill its responsibilities, allegedly for technical reasons.

Kasagic denied that separate statements for the press, first by Muratovic and Bildt and than by himself, were an indication of disagreements during the talks.

B-H: Karadzic Comments on Situation in Serb-Held Sarajevo

LD3103200896 Pale Srpska Televizija in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 31 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A session of the main committee of the Serb Democratic Party—presided over by party chairman Radovan Karadzic—was held in Pale today. The session was devoted to tomorrow's 58th session of the People's Assembly of the Serb Republic. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Begin Karadzic recording] I can assure you that the state and party leadership wished to remain in Sarajevo and, as a whole, to counter by political means the intentions of our enemies and achieve a favorable result that would enable us to continue the struggle by political means [as heard].

Our idea was to get new municipal boundaries—as the ones we had established during the war—and to get political rights in these municipalities—not human but political rights, which means the right to our own authority, police, education system, and legislature.

We had a basis for all this in both the Dayton agreement and the constitution of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation which regulates relations in the Muslim-Croat federation.

The international community refused to support the survival of the Serbs in Sarajevo and near the end definitively accelerated the exodus by moving forward the deadline for the entry of the Muslim police into Serb districts. In the part of Sarajevo that remains in our republic, there are now about 100,000 people, which is a firm guarantee for the survival of our people in this region.

However, people are closely watching what the government will do. If it decides to reinstall production facilities here and enable people to build their houses, people will remain. If this does not happen people will sell their homes and leave this region, and then we will certainly lose the Drina. The Muslims will reach the Drina.

The government and the ministry must at all costs implement the law on abandoned property. We will demand that the government issue an ID card to every refugee and to fire secretariat secretaries and mayors in municipalities where this is not done. We do not have the right to treat refugees in such a way, especially—from the standpoint of the party—we do not have the right to tell them fairy tales. The people want to see what we are doing.

Our best election campaign is the work of our government and its institutions, and of course, the work of our municipalities, because these authorities are also ours—the authorities of the Serb Democratic Party. We have no excuse to say that some opposition party in Prijedor, Banja Luka, Bijeljina or even in Brcko is preventing us from implementing what our legislative authorities have adopted.

The most urgent tasks that will completely change the situation in the country are looking after our refugees and delivering 10,000 tonnes of oil to help in developing our agriculture. The government first adopted a decision on 3,000 tonnes, then on 2,900 tonnes, and then we demanded that the government earmark 7,000 tonnes more at 1.5 plus two kilos of corn [reference unclear]; this has to start tomorrow in the southernmost areas where the weather is warm, and then it should go toward northern areas. Minister Arsenovic acted completely in line with the party and managed to obtain that quota. It starts tomorrow I think; Mr. Arsenovic knows this better.

What is also important is to move refugees from refugee centers to individual properties and distribute land and property, houses, all abandoned property; this can alleviate the grave position of our people who left their centuries-old homes, fleeing either the knife or political torture, choosing to live in the Serb state. [end recording]

B-H: Muslims Accused of Harassment, Arrests in Sarajevo

LD2903224796 Pale Srpska Televizija in Serbo-Croatian 1930 GMT 29 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Muslim police arrest Serbs in Sarajevo anywhere they can. On Ohridska Street [near Vraca and Grbavica suburb] near the border between the [Bosnian] Serb Republic and the Muslim-Croat Federation, the Muslim police today arrested Milovan Divcic and Milos Batkovic. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] The situation in Vraca, just in the local community of Gornji Kovacici, has become extremely volatile. The Serbs' revolt against the kidnapping and arrests perpetrated by the Muslim police is getting out of control and threatening to turn into self-organized resistance.

The Muslim police, although it has no basis for detaining of Serbs, arrested them in the border zone while armed with automatic rifles, something which is against the articles of the Dayton agreement. According to the agreement, no armed forces, except in this case the Italian IFOR [Implementation Force], can have access here [to the border zone] and especially not while armed with rifles.

During the arrest, Muslims opened fire on the assembled Serb civilians. When the IFOR soldiers, whose zone of responsibility it is, heard the fire, they attempted to intervene. Thanks to the engagement of the international police force and IFOR, the extremely tense atmosphere in Sarajevo eased only late this evening, when Divcic and Batkovic were returned to the Serb side with visible traces of physical maltreatment.

Muslims have not only arrested and killed Serbs in their part of Sarajevo; Muslims are arresting and mysteriously taking away the few Serbs who have stayed be-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

hind in Ilidza, Ilijas, Rajlovac, Hadzici, and Vogosca [former Serb suburbs of Sarajevo transferred to Bosnia-Herzegovina government control]. And they did not stop there. They are now arresting them at the border of the Serb Republic.

B-H: Serb Refugees To Get Abandoned Muslim-Croat Property

LD2903201296 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1835 GMT 29 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sarajevo, 29 Mar (SRNA)—Abandoned property on the territory of the [Bosnian] Serb Republic can only be used by refugees and displaced persons whose property remains on the territory of the Muslim-Croat Federation—Slobodan Ecimovic, deputy minister for refugees, said in Pale today.

"The property currently at the disposal of these people will remain theirs until they receive compensation or declare themselves as wishing to continue living on the territory of the federation," Ecimovic said.

He attended a meeting with representatives of departments and commissions from the Sarajevo-Romanija and Brcko areas charged with accommodating refugees, at which special attention was devoted to the law on abandoned property.

"The law is perfectly clear—abandoned property has been placed at the disposal of the state, while commissions and departments are to carry out concrete distribution," Ecimovic said and warned:

"There will be many problems here, as many people who are not refugees have usurped abandoned property."

He added that the law also envisaged eviction, which will be carried out by the commissions which, in turn, will be assisted by the Interior Ministry.

"The law also clearly regulates the exchange of property, which can only be made under the supervision of the republic's administration for legal and property affairs," Ecimovic said.

B-H: International Police Send 28 Observers to Sapna

AU2903191396 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 29 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] UN Sarajevo spokesman Alexander Ivanko stated today that the international police force has sent 28 additional observers to the disputed area of Sapna. He said that according to UN information, the local Bosniak population from the villages ceded to the Serb entity by the peace agreement does not want to move out, and if Serb policemen enter the villages, there could be (?trouble).

Ivanko said the Serb police officials had stated that they would not enter these villages until at least 1 April. He said the tensions increased when the Serb police arrested four persons near Teocak, for allegedly driving a car while intoxicated, and sentenced them to 10 days in prison.

IFOR [Implementation Force] spokesman Simon Haselock said that a meeting of the subcommission for determining the border between the entities will be held tomorrow, and if reason prevails the solution to these disputed villages will be found.

B-H: IFOR Increases Patrols in 'Tense' Grbavica

AU3003142896 Paris AFP in English 1042 GMT 30 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarajevo, March 30 (AFP)—NATO increased its patrols of the tense Grbavica neighbourhood in Sarajevo Saturday [30 March] following a clash between Moslems and Serbs on the edge of the area.

On Friday, several shots were fired at Bosnian Moslem police and hand grenades thrown when they attempted to arrest four Serb youths they said had been looting houses. Two of the four were detained. The others escaped.

"The number of patrols around Grbavica has been stepped up because of yesterday's (Friday) incident," Major Myriam Sochacki, a spokeswoman for the NATO-led Implementation Force [IFOR] said Saturday.

Grbavica is an area in the south of the city bordering the boundary line separating the two former foes on the perimeter of the capital.

Nobody was injured in the attack. However, the incident sparked another development in which Srecko Latal, a journalist from Sarajevo with the US agency Associated Press who was reporting on the incident, was snatched by an angry mob of Serbs who beat him before Italian soldiers on the scene intervened.

The Italians later handed Latal back to the Serb authorities after they and the UN police negotiated with a Serb representative at the spot. Latal was accompanied by the Italians as he was taken to a local police station where the Serbs agreed to release him once the two Serbs arrested were freed.

It was the first serious incident involving the two sides since Serbs relinquished large areas of the city to the Moslem-Croat federation including the Grbavica area.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

B-H: Karadzic Attends Bosnian Serb Government Session

LD3003122196 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1120 GMT 30 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sarajevo, 30 Mar (SRNA)—A regular session of the Bosnian Serb Republic Government began in Pale at 1000 today, with 56 items on the agenda.

The agenda contains many draft laws, including draft laws on foreign currency transactions, the expropriation of property, and radio and television.

After discussion in the government, these draft laws should be debated by deputies at the 58th session of the People's Assembly, scheduled for 1 April in Pale.

The ministers in the Government of the Serb Republic will be presented with a report by the Ministry of Refugees and Displaced Persons' Affairs, a report on the resolution of the status and welfare of war disabled and their families, a report on the work of the commission for delineating the borders, and a report on the drafting of documentation pertaining to the realization of the decision to extend the Serb City of Sarajevo [as received].

The session, which is being chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Milomir Draganic, is being attended by Dr. Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serb Republic, and Momcilo Krajisnik, speaker of the People's Assembly.

B-H: Opposition Groups Meet To Discuss Sep Elections

AU3003173496 Paris AFP in English 1641 GMT 30 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina, March 30 (AFP)—Representatives of Bosnian opposition groups met here Saturday [30 March] at a conference aimed at firming up the political peace process ahead of elections to be held by September.

Topping the agenda at the two-day meeting was how to ensure the elections are free and fair and that all parties be able to stand in any part of the country.

The delegates included Serb opposition activists from Banja Luka as well as Croat and Moslem delegates from Breza, Sarajevo, Tuzla and Zenica.

Michael Steiner, principal deputy to High Representative Carl Bildt, was also due to attend.

Vladislav Vlajic, spokesman for the Tuzla Citizens Forum which sponsored the conference, said it was aimed at ensuring "free democratic elections as a condition for a permanent and fair peace" in Bosnia.

Another aim, he said, "is to push and initiate a kind of network of civic organisations" throughout the country.

Intellectuals' groups were also invited, as were representatives of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the charity CARE.

However, a Croat delegation from the divided southern city of Mostar did not turn up.

The Tuzla Citizens Forum was founded in February 1993 as a non-political pressure group working to restore democracy to Bosnia and monitor human rights.

B-H: Bosnian Serb Government Drafts Law on Radio, TV

LD3003160696 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 1450 GMT 30 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sarajevo, 30 Mar (SRNA)—The Government of the Bosnian Serb Republic has adopted several draft laws in the course of today's session, which will constitute the agenda for the parliamentary session convened for 1 April.

The Government adopted a draft law on radio and television which outlines solutions for public broadcasting companies. The law defines the use of radio frequencies, as well as some issues important for the work and functioning of Serb radio and television.

The Serb Radio-Television Public Company is founded to broadcast on the territory of the Serb Republic. Within the main framework of the company, the Government has founded public media organizations—Serb Radio and Serb Television.

Serb Radio-Television will be funded by radio and television licenses, advertising, and economic propaganda [as received], as well as from the budget, as envisaged by law.

The People's Assembly of the Serb Republic will appoint the managing and supervising boards of Serb Radio-Television, and the Government will appoint its director general, the editor in chief of Serb Radio, and the editor in chief of Serb Television, within 60 days of the law's coming into force.

The Government will be also appointing editors in chief of local radio stations and radio-television organizations which have been given the use of radio frequencies.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Croatia: Tudjman Meets U.S. Defense Secretary Perry

LD3003183296 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 30 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent Drazen Korda] President of Croatia Franjo Tudjman received U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry this evening. Drazen Korda reporting from the Presidential Palace.

At the beginning of the talks President Tudjman thanked Perry for his personal contribution to the partnership between the United States and Croatia, which is also important for the establishment of peace in the region. Croatia will do everything it can for the peaceful reintegration of the Croatian Danubian region and for the agreement on the [Bosnia-Herzegovina] Federation, the Croatian president said.

Tudjman said that Croatia has met all the conditions for admission into the Partnership for Peace program and, soon thereafter, for full membership in NATO.

Perry conveyed President Clinton's message in which he thanked President Tudjman personally and on behalf of the American nation on taking courageous steps in Dayton and his courage in the implementation of the process of peaceful reintegration of the Croatian Danubian region. He also thanked Croatia for the support it is extending to IFOR [Implementation Force]. [passage omitted]

Croatia: Tudjman, Perry Give News Conference

LD3003220396 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 30 Mar 96

[News conference given by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry in Zagreb—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] (Unidentified mediator] Ladies and gentlemen, good evening. President of Croatia Franjo Tudjman and U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry will give brief statements, after which you will be able to ask them several very short questions.

[Tudjman] We have just ended talks between the Croatian and the U.S. delegation headed by Defense Secretary Perry, and I can say with pleasure that we have achieved full unanimity on many important issues pertaining to the resolution of the problems we are facing. This applies to the peaceful reintegration of eastern Slavonia and our interest in the implementation of the Dayton Agreement on breathing life into the [Bosnian] Federation in order to establish peace there and create conditions for the new international order.

I would like to add that in the process of creating the friendly partnership between Croatia and the United States we have managed to do this primarily on the military plane and that cooperation on the military plane has enabled development of cooperation in all other areas, which will become evident at the upcoming meeting between our two countries' businessmen.

As you can see, matters sometimes develop in a different sequence [as heard], but this time we can note with pleasure that things have first developed in the area of military cooperation, thanks particularly to the friendly personal relations between Mr. Perry and Croatian Defense Minister Gojko Susak. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Two questions for the president and the minister. Can you tell us something about future defense cooperation between the two states, and can Croatia count on U.S. support regarding its application to join the Partnership for Peace?

[Tudjman] We are very satisfied with defense cooperation with U.S. representatives so far. Everything that has been done provides, as Mr. Perry already said, a basis for even better cooperation not only in the interest of bilateral relations but also in the interest of creating conditions that will prevent and frustrate any future crisis in the area. As far as the second question is concerned, I think that Secretary Perry should answer it. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] Mr. President, I am [name indistinct]. I would like to ask two questions if I may. Did your government pressurize General Blaskic into turning himself over to the war crimes tribunal, and will you do the same with the other six Bosnian Croats accused of war crimes? What specific steps will you take to enhance the Federation?

[Tudjman] As far as Gen. Blaskic is concerned, he has said that he has volunteered to go to The Hague Tribunal. There has been some confusion recently because his attorney, and attorneys are prone to do this, has tried to delay matters and moreover Gen. Blaskic has also had a happy event in his family, his son was born recently. However, I can inform you that General Blaskic will report to The Hague Tribunal in coming days.

As far as the others are concerned, the Republic of Croatia remains committed to the full cooperation with The Hague Tribunal and the Croatian parliament is currently considering a bill that will make this possible. However, the others [Croats from Bosnia-Herzegovina] who had been indicted by The Hague Tribunal are not in the territory of Croatia but in the territory of Herzeg-Bosnia.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Their case will probably depend on the resolution of this issue with regard to others who had also taken part in the war, meaning the Serbs and the Muslims.

Let me express my personal conviction that, although it is important to hold responsible those guilty of war crimes, it is much more important to overcome the unfortunate past and create conditions for the coexistence of those who until recently were at war with each other.

As far as your second question is concerned, Croatia is above all bringing its influence to bear on the Croat people in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the people who were initially threatened by Yugo-communist and Serbian aggression. They [Bosnian Croats] want security within the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. We will do everything in our power in order to ensure the consistent implementation of the Dayton Agreement. Croatia has also recently taken steps by proposing a number of concrete agreements to the government of the Federation and the the government of the Federation has done the same. The aim of the agreements is to achieve close economic, transport, and cultural links between the Federation and the Republic of Croatia as provided for by the Washington Agreement. Therefore, in spite of the difficulties and stumbling blocks in our way I believe that generally we can be satisfied with the current developments.

Croatia: Defense Minister Susak, Perry Comment on Talks

LD3003174996 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 30 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Good cooperation and understanding between the United States and Croatia have been confirmed in talks between Defense Minister Gojko Susak and his American colleague William Perry [U.S. secretary of defense], who is visiting Croatia today—this was said by the two ministers after their meeting at the Croatian Defense Ministry. Drazen Korda reports.

[Korda] Minister Susak, who arrived in Zagreb with minister Perry, said:

[Begin Susak recording] I would first like to take the opportunity in this address to the Croatian public to thank you personally, as a colleague and friend, and your government, for placing everything your country has at my disposal at a time when I discovered that a dangerous malady was lurking in my body. The successful operation enabled me to return to Croatia in excellent health, as you would say—a clean bill of health [previous words in English].

During Mr. Secretary's visit today we discussed bilateral Croatian-American ties and the Partnership for Peace Program; the secretary reiterated that he would propose to the NATO defense minister's meeting in May that Croatia be admitted to Partnership for Peace.

We also discussed the situation in eastern Slavonia—we have convergent views on this—and measures we could jointly take for the speedier implementation of the Croat-Bosniak federation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Due to my absence and certain misunderstandings... [pauses] We informed our friends during the visit here by the commander of U.S. land forces, Mr. [name indistinct], that General Blaskic had said he would be going to The Hague voluntarily. He is willing to do this; I talked to him today. He told me he would be leaving for The Hague on 1 April. [end recording]

[Korda] Recalling the dark days of last spring—the siege of Srebrenica, preparations for the withdrawal of NATO from Bosnia, and the prospects for the continuation of the bloody war—Minister Perry symbolically welcomed the new spring, which brings good health to his friend Minister Susak, as well as everything positive achieved so far in the implementation of the Dayton agreement.

Adding that even more was needed, William Perry continued:

[Begin Perry recording, in English with superimposed translation into Serbo-Croatian] Minister Susak and I discussed things which we can do and he can do, and tommorow in Sarajevo I will discuss what the Bosnian Government can do to improve the peace process and ensure a more comprehensive implementation of the agreement.

NATO forces will secure full freedom of movement in Bosnia-Herzegovina and will not tolerate anybody's rogue checkpoints.

I welcome Minister Susak's statement on the international war crimes tribunal because the Dayton Agreement envisages full cooperation with that court.

We also discussed the release of all POW's, and I will ask for the cooperation of Bosnian and Croatian authorities in this matter. There was also talk about ways to strengthen the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation—the key to long-term success.

We also talked about future security relations between Croatia and the United States and between Croatia and Europe. I told the minister that we would support Croatia's membership in Partnership for Peace. In view of Croatia's full cooperation in the implementation of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the Dayton Agreement, this will be a positive step for both Croatia and Europe.

We discussed forming of important bilateral defense working groups in various areas of cooperation; we will also have a program of officer exchange, joint exercises for the preservation of peace, and cooperation in military equipment.

We are looking forward to this cooperation at the level of states and defense ministries, and I am happy about this cooperation with my friend and colleague Minister Susak. [end recording]

Croatia: TV Commentator Views Perry's Visit to Zagreb

LD3103184996 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 31 Mar 96

[Commentary by Nenad Ivankovic]

[FBIS Translated Text] Croatian Defense Minister Gojko Susak and his American colleague Perry's exit from the plane was truly impressive. I personally experienced it as a moment of human solidarity and as a relationship between two top officials that transcends everyday political routine, but also as tangible proof that cooperation between the United States and our country—especially in the military and security area—is becoming closer and more significant.

It is beyond doubt that the most important task of every state authority is to maintain security—external as well as internal. States that cannot achieve this are plagued by instability and teeter on the edge of chaos. Bearing this in mind, it becomes all the more important when the Pentagon chief tells our public after talks with President Tudjman that America is ready for comprehensive cooperation in the area of security and that he—Perry—will personally see to it that Croatia is granted membership in NATO's Partnership for Peace.

It would be naive to believe that such relations are only a result of personal or collective sympathy or are a reward to our country for scoring minor political points with the world's number one superpower. No, the key reasons were the grand victories by the Croatian Army last year and the country's political stability.

This is primarily what in American eyes made us worthy of partnership and a reliable factor in this region. And this, in fact, is what Perry said in Zagreb. Essentially his message was this: Croatia—on which we Americans are relying in Bosnia and further afield—will have our full support, but on condition that it honestly and completely supports the Dayton Agreement, that is, American interests in this region.

Are these demands excessive? Not at all. Only political speculators can today accuse Zagreb of not being sincere in its support for the implementation of the Bosnian federation. The federation and its close cooperation with Croatia—despite all the difficulties and pitfalls—is in the strategic interest of our country.

The same applies to the peaceful reintegration of eastern Slavonia; for this reason—I dare say—unanimity and partnership with America on these issues—and Perry's visit to Zagreb reiterated this—opens up prospects for external security guarantees that will make sure that future generations will not have to relive the drama of their fathers.

Croatia: Radio Comments on Secretary Perry's Visit

LD3003152096 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 30 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Perry will meet Croatian President Franjo Tudjman in Zagreb this evening. Nada al-Issa reports from Zagreb.

[Al-Issa] The fragile federation and the problems and tensions besetting it are the main reasons for Perry's visit to Zagreb, Croatian diplomatic circles say. However, it has been learned unofficially that Perry will again ask Tudjman to exert his influence on the Bosnian Croats to finally accept the federation.

He will also ask for Croatia's greater cooperation with The Hague tribunal, as Zagreb has been dragging its feet lately on the extradition of four Bosnian Croats by continuously setting fresh conditions to The Hague tribunal.

The more pleasant aspect of the Tudjman-Perry meeting will be talks on Croatia's membership in NATO and the Partnership for Peace program. It has already been officially announced in Zagreb that William Perry will propose accepting Croatia as a member at the next NATO session.

Zagreb therefore attaches extreme importance to Perry's visit, with the remark from the Banski Dvori [presidential palace] that this is a clear signal to the world that Croatia enjoys U.S. support.

As we said earlier, returning to Zagreb with Perry is Defense Minister Gojko Susak, who has spent a long time in the United States for medical reasons. Namely, Susak underwent chest surgery in a U.S. military hospital—and this is all that is known about the minister's health situation.

However, it can be heard unofficially in Zagreb political circles that Tudjman himself has breathed a sigh of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

relief at Minister Susak's return as he was finding it increasingly difficult to keep the Bosnian Croats in line without the aid of this powerful Herzegovinian.

Croatia: Zagreb Previews U.S. Defense Secretary's Visit

LD3003084896 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 30 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry arrives on a visit to Croatia today. Secretary Perry will begin his six-day tour—in the course of which he will visit Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, and Egypt—with a meeting with President Tudjman. Drazen Korda reports:

[Korda] Today's arrival of Secretary Perry confirms that in addition to good political relations the Republic of Croatia and the United States have a strategic partnership at the level of defense ministries—namely, the cooperation program started in December 1994 with the training of Croatian army officers at U.S. military academies in the United States and in Germany.

With the lifting of the arms embargo, cooperation between the military forces of the two countries will become even closer.

The recent official visit by [Croatian Defense] Minister Susak to the Pentagon has demonstrated that the two ministers enjoy not only a professional, but a friendly relationship, too. On this occasion, broader cooperation was agreed in establishing total civilian administration of the Croatian Defense ministry, as is normal in the democratic world.

Apart from the continuation of good bilateral cooperation, according to statements from Pentagon, it is expected that today's talks between U.S. Defense Secretary Perry and Croatian officials will also focus on further strengthening the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation and on cooperation with the Hague tribunal prosecutors.

One of Croatia's principal goals is to join all NATO institutions and here the support of the United States and of Secretary Perry is crucial. Secretary Perry will suggest that Croatia be included in the Partnership for Peace program at the next NATO ministerial session.

Bearing in mind U.S. influence in the western defense alliance, today's visit by Secretary Perry is of great importance for the Republic of Croatia and offers evidence to the world that our country enjoys open U.S. support.

Croatia: Indicted War Criminal Blaskic Leaves for Hague

AU0104142196 Paris AFP in English 1340 GMT 1 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zagreb, April 1 (AFP)—Croatian General Tihomir Blaskic, accused by the UN war-crimes tribunal in The Hague of crimes against humanity, left Zagreb Monday for trial.

"I will tell nothing but the truth. I am innocent," Blaskic said, at Zagreb airport, as he left accompanied by his wife and lawyer.

Blaskic, a former commander of the Bosnian Croat forces (HVO), was indicted by The Hague-based UN war-crimes tribunal last November over the massacre of 100 Moslem civilians in April 1993 in the central Bosnian village of Ahmici.

He will be the first Croatian to appear at the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia.

His appearance in The Hague follows Serbia's decision Saturday to send two members of the Bosnian Serb army to testify over a massacre of Moslems in the eastern enclave of Srebrenica last year.

Croatia: Blaskic To Quit Army Post Before Hague Hearing

AU3103134196 Paris AFP in English 1318 GMT 31 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zagreb, March 31 (AFP)—Croatian General Tihomir Blaskic, expected to appear before the UN War Crimes Tribunal Tuesday [1 April], is to ask the army to discharge him Sunday, his lawyer Zvonimir Hodak said.

"We are going this afternoon to the Ministry of Defence so that the general can be discharged from his functions," Hodak told AFP.

Blaskic is expected to appear Tuesday before the International Criminal Tribunal (ICT) for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

He was indicted, with five other Croats, on November 13 for the massacre of 100 Moslem civilians in April 1993 in the central Bosnian village of Ahmici.

At the time he was commanding units of the Bosnian Croat forces (HVO).

Hodak said Blaskic would plead innocent to the charges. "There is not the least proof of these allegations," he said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

"It is as if one accused the Bronx police chief of being responsible for the murders of about 10 people in his sphere of responsibility."

Croatian Defence Minister Gojko Susak said here Saturday, after talks with U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry, that Blaskic would give himself up voluntarily to the ICT on Monday.

Hodak said earlier this month Blaskic would surrender to the ICT "to prove his innocence" but his appearance has been delayed by wrangling over security and Blaskic's demand to be held in a safe house with his family rather than in a UN cell.

Well-informed sources say the Croatian Defence Ministry has barred Blaskic, 35, who is married with two children, from talking to the media. He lives here under strict security, surrounded by bodyguards.

Blaskic quit the former Federal Yugoslav Army (JNA) in August 1991 as the Serb-Croat war loomed and joined the HVO in April 1992.

Croatia: Army Maintains Combat Readiness in East

LD2903211096 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 29 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] High-ranking Croatian Army officers have acquainted members of the military-diplomatic corps in Croatia with the responsibilities of our army in peacetime.

[Unidentified correspondent] This is the first meeting to be held in a relaxed atmosphere because the war is behind us, the war that the Croatian army had won—these were the first words at the meeting.

Speaking about the history of the Croatian army, General Zvonimir Cervenko said that its genesis was well known, as well as the circumstances in which it was born, and that it was as old as the patriotic war itself. Following the victory, the Croatian army gradually accepted its peacetime role and it will continue to organize in this direction.

[Begin Cervenko recording] In the east, we must maintain a certain level of combat readiness that is not in complete harmony with peacetime. However, this does not mean that we are carrying out any preparations for resolving the problem outside the boundaries of a peaceful resolution, but certain things are understandable. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Following successful operations, some 155,000 soldiers were demobilized, while the remaining 6,000 will be joining them when conditions are created for the Croatian army to function normally without them.

After organizational and personnel changes, we will begin strengthening our technical capabilities.

[Begin Cervenko recording] All this is in accordance with the Croatian army's future membership in the NATO alliance. [end recording]

[Correspondent] These meetings with foreign military envoys are good and they should be as frequent as possible.

[Begin Major General Ivan Tolj recording] You know that information from the right source at the right time is always valuable. All the more so as you are presently in a country that is being closely watched by the entire world. [end recording]

[Correspondent] It was concluded that the members of the military-diplomatic corps are a link between the Croatian Armed Forces and foreign countries. An exchange of experiences is always welcome.

Croatia: Security Chief Explains Wiretapping Practice

AU0104110696 Zagreb VECERNJI LIST in Serbo-Croatian 28 Mar 96 p 7

[Interview with Smiljan Reljic, assistant to the interior minister, by Darko Djuretek; place and date not given: "They Have Published Falsifications About Eavesdropping"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The activity of the Agency for the Protection of Constitutional Order [SZUP] and consequently the alleged eavesdropping about which some papers have recently published some articles are the subjects of our interview with Smiljan Reljic, assistant to the minister of internal affairs of the Republic of Croatia, who is at the head of the SZUP.

[Djuretek] How credible are the claims in some newspapers, specifically in NACIONAL weekly, about the activity of SZUP?

[Reljic] The general public is interested in the very existence of such services in the state because part of their activity is always veiled in secrecy. It is therefore an unending subject for all those who want to write about it. We have nothing against that, and we have tried to show that we want to make our work absolutely open for the public. We do mind, however, if one approaches the subject in a sensationalistic way, if one puts a false construction on certain facts or misrepresents them in order to produce a certain effect with the readership and thus raise circulation.

It is not that we find that to be a big problem, but when the intention of such articles is to cause a conflict

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

between one security service and another, when they try to accuse the political leadership of the state, when they try in all possible ways to convince the general public that one such service has been working against the rights and freedoms of the citizens, then we have to react and say what it actually is about.

Misinformation of General Public

[Djuretek] Do you want to say that misinforming the general public is the actual intention of some articles?

[Reljic] When one analyzes all the recent articles in detail—and, believe me, we do that very closely—then one can see what kind of approach that actually is. None of the authors of those articles have written that the services of the whole security system were created during the war, that the results of those services are impressive, that they have made their contribution to the most magnificent Croatian Army and the Croatian police operations, Operations Flash, Storm, Maslenica, and all others, thus granting protection to the constitutional order of the Republic of Croatia.

So nobody writes about our maximum openness to the general public or that we have submitted the former Yugoslav services' files to Croatian citizens and have submitted our activities for an appraisal of the parliamentary commission on internal policy and national security and that we have always been given excellent marks. And there are also representatives of the opposition parties on that commission.

They write about the cases that have been placed in a false light and are not worth anyone's attention. Or, as is the case with those most recent articles, they have been trying to create the impression that there is a conflict between the services, that it is possible that the documents can be taken out from the service, that the services have been wiretapping the opposition leaders, trade union leaders, and some journalists, in order to make the security services the bogeyman of the democratic organization.

[Djuretek] Are those services, particularly SZUP, bogeymen? Can you remove that veil of secrecy from the ways of our service? And to be direct, what is the truth in all this about eavesdropping?

[Reljic] SZUP is a part of MUP [Ministry of Internal Affairs], and it always has and always will work in line with the Constitution and the laws of this country, and on the basis of its powers.

Chain of Control at MUP

Wiretapping, perhaps the subtlest method of all used by this service, is a procedure that has been applied very restrictively. And only in cases when there is a legal precondition for it. It is not at all some kind of bogeyman, but the application of a method that, because of the specific quality of criminal offenses that SZUP deals with, has been available to this service. I must emphasize that SZUP of MUP of the Republic of Croatia is the only service in Croatia with such legal and constitutional powers.

[Djuretek] Technically, it is not difficult to wiretap. However, there is the question of procedure—that is, is it easy to decide just like that and start eavesdropping on someone?

[Reljic] Our service encounters specific type of criminal offense, which have been co-organized in secret, which have largely been done in cooperation with foreign countries, and are specific also because of the fact that even the preliminary activities for such criminal offenses are punishable.

So when there is a justified suspicion that such a criminal offense could be committed and endanger the constitutional order, then the measure of wiretapping telephones can be applied. The final decision is made in writing by the minister of internal affairs. In order for someone to be in the position of having his telephone tapped, apart from all the legal conditions that must be fulfilled, a particular procedure must be followed, that means the whole chain of control within MUP is brought into play. At certain levels it is checked whether the application of such a subtle measure is justified: starting from the operational officer who is dealing with a certain subject, to the chief of the department, to the head of a department in a certain structural unit, to the head of the center, to coordination with the head of department at the service headquarters, to me as the head of the service, and then, finally, to the final instance of the minister of internal affairs, who can, but does not have to, make a decision on wiretapping.

Tendentious Article

[Djuretek] In one of its recent NACIONAL articles, a series of judgments has been passed on the work of SZUP. Most frequently mentioned operation is "Pastir 900" ["Shepherd 900"]. Is there any truth in those claims?

[Reljic] When one analyzes that article thoroughly, one can see that one has pulled out, from a tendentious and malicious text, a sensationalistic headline in which one claims that we eavesdrop on the leaders of the opposition parties, trade unions, and some journalists, which is a notorious lie. On the other hand, the facsimile of a document published in NACIONAL is absolutely a falsification. I claim that in all seriousness.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Operation "Shepherd 900" is not at all some secret SZUP operation, as that weekly tries to present it, but it was in fact an operation of MUP's, of which this service is only a part, and the purpose of that action was to do everything we could to provide security for the Holy Father on the occasion of his visit to Zagreb and Croatia, and to provide security for the million of citizens of Croatia who came to see the pope.

One must realize that at that time some thirty kilometers away from that central event, the Serb terrorists' artillery was in the temporarily occupied territory. So there was a threat that the area where the holy mass took place could have been endangered by this. Just as the other departments made their contribution, so SZUP also did its part. So there was no mystical operation or some secret activities of our service. We think with justification that the Holy Father's visit passed without incident thanks to the contribution of MUP, as well as SZUP as one of its parts.

That article says that Minister Jarnjak and I were particularly commended by the state leadership. I will not speak in the name of the minister, but I was certainly not particularly commended, I was simply given a letter of thanks like all the other policemen who participated in that magnificent event. We were just doing our job.

Ill-Disposed Operations Officers

[Djuretek] In what way can sensitive information reach the general public?

[Reljic] "The State Security Service" [SDS] of former Yugoslavia always had the assignment of strangling any Croatian idea of an independent state. With the establishment of the sovereign Croatian state, of course, the need appeared to form our service, and on the basis of that the transformation of the SDS began to be transformed into an independent service, today SZUP of MUP of the Republic of Croatia. The first task of the transformation was to remove from the service all those who were not, by potential, patriotism, political and professional orientation, capable of responding to all the tasks that our service placed before them. That is a really impressive number. Approximately 800 people have left SZUP since 1990. Of course, a large number of them never accepted that and could not reconcile themselves to the fact that they had left that job. In some way they have remained a potential source of trouble.

In the preparation of our operations, every operations officer always participates autonomously and professionally in creating our operations plans. He makes suggestions, sketches for an action. With such papers he goes to the chief of his department, who is the first to filter the operations officer's proposal. The second filter is the head of department, and then the head of the SZUP center. Then it is all agreed with the head of the department in the headquarters of the service and in the end all is verified by me. The whole process ends with that signature.

So any such operations officer could conceive such a plan, and certainly there are some people who would be able to do that for this or that reason, but certainly not with good intentions. We assume that a number of those who have left the service have taken some of their files along. That is, on the other hand, the second problem the service has been constantly dealing with.

One such paper could reach NACIONAL in a couple of ways. However, I claim with full responsibility that the verified original document of the aforementioned operation could not have come into the hands of the journalists of NACIONAL, and you can see it now here and you can convince yourself that the names cited by NACIONAL are not in this document. It is a false construction and a falsification.

Citizens Can Sleep Tight

[Djuretek] The readership is mainly intrigued by the specific, publicly known names mentioned in such articles. How much truth is there in what has been published?

[Reljic] I claim that nobody in the country has been wiretapped because he is the leader of an opposition party, or a journalist, or the head of a certain trade union. If anyone is in any way in a position to jeopardize the constitutional order, he will be dealt with but not because he is a member of a particular association, a journalist, or suchlike, but because there is justified suspicion about his anticonstitutional activity. There one can also see politicking and an attempt to sensationalize everything. That is a pure false construction and an attempt to compromise, in this case, mainly SZUP.

I should tell you that the State Attorney's Office has sent us a request to gather all previous information on the article in NACIONAL and on those articles. We will start a criminal investigation in order to analyze in detail everything that happened in relation to that article's claims that SZUP has been wiretapping. Someone has tried to upset the Croatian general public by presenting lies.

[Djuretek] Should citizens fear for their freedom and privacy when the security services are concerned?

[Reljic] Everyone who has never had an opportunity to jeopardize the constitutional order of the Republic of Croatia, can sleep tight. SZUP is not and never will be interested in such persons. Once again, I repeat, the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

wiretapping, which one has been trying to present as the general public's bogeyman, has its technical limitations. On one occasion, DANAS published a report that half of Croatia had been wiretapped. That would technically mean that one half of Croatia has been wiretapping the other half, which is ridiculous.

It is indicative and interesting that the female author of the NACIONAL article has personally told me that during the Yugoslav Army's fiercest attacks on Croatian state territory, she visited Belgrade on several occasions and contacted for us, in the security sense, some very interesting persons. Among others, Radenko Radojcic, too, who was the alpha and omega in the "Labrador" affair and who was the author of the famous "Opera," the purpose of which was to launch information and misinformation and introduce chaos into the Croatian media region, which Radenko Radojcic confirmed himself during the investigation.

[Box, p 7]

There Is No Conflict Among Services

[Djuretek] When the work of your service is mentioned in some articles, they also mention some people from the state leadership. What is your comment?

[Reljic] Precisely that is the most obvious thing in the most recent article in NACIONAL, where Defense Minister Susak, his wife, and former Minister of Transport and Communications Ivica Mudrinic are mentioned in the context of eavesdropping. Thus, they want to present it to the general public in such a way: "Here, the complete state leadership is in it in fact. They are all in the same business." I think that is utterly unfair, tendentious, and exceeds the bounds of professional behavior in dealing with such a subject.

[Djuretek] And what about theses on alleged disagreement between the security services?

[Reljic] I openly assert that there is no conflict among the services of the security community of the Republic of Croatia. There are no such conflicts particularly since the National Security Office started to operate fully, where all the services have been subject to very rigorous control. Particularly in the part where one pays attention to the overlapping of activities of the services.

There is something else they want to present as the conflict among the services. That is, in fact, the conflict with the people who, by their professional, moral, or any other features, never deserved to be members of some of these services and therefore had to leave. There is constant politicking, constant calculating, and the creation of conflict. I assert in all seriousness that there is no conflict among the services in Croatia. Finally, we have shown this on innumerable occasions in our cooperation in Operation Flash, and Storm, and in many other actions. And if you will, the best proof is the most recent Operation Zenith.

Croatia: Opposition Parties To Reelect Zagreb Mayor

LD2903211996 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 29 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Leaders of the opposition parties in the Croatian Assembly, the Croatian Social Liberal Party [HSLS], the Party of Democratic Changes [SDP], and the Croatian Peasants' Party [HSS] have pointed out at a news conference that they regret that their two legal proposals for the solution of the political situation in the city of Zagreb have not been included in the agenda of the Chamber of Deputies' session. That is why they have publicly asked Croatian President Tudjman what guarantees he can offer so that after the possible new elections, the crisis in Zagreb will not be repeated.

They also said that the parties' club in the Zagreb City Assembly will reelect Drazen Budisa as mayor, even if his appointment is not confirmed by the president of the Republic.

Croatia: Serb Organizations Form Association

LD2903215196 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2101 GMT 29 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zagreb, March 29 (TANJUG)—Serb organisations in Croatia formed an association in Zagreb on Friday.

The association comprises the Serb Prosvjeta Culture Society, the Serb Democratic Forum, the Rijeka Serb Society and the Society of Serbs of Western Slavonia.

At its founding assembly, the association adopted a programme declaration stressing that it was a non-governmental and non-party organisation that would direct its work primarily at obtaining a new status for the Serbs in Croatia's public, cultural and social life.

The declaration said that the association had no political ambitions and would leave political activity to the Serb parties in Croatia.

The association pledged to approach the Croatian Government with a request for the return of Serb refugees from Croatia to their ancestral homes.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

About 350,000 Serbs have been displaced from Croatia since its secession from the former Yugoslav Federation in 1991.

Croatia's aggressions on the west, north and south of the Republic of Serb Krajina alone, in May and August of 1995, displaced from than 260,000 Serbs.

Croatia: New Independent Trade Union Leader Elected

LD2903222396 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 29 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Davor Juric is the new president of the Independent Trade Unions [ITU] of Croatia. He has gotten a majority of votes at the emergency congress of the ITU. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

FYROM: Negotiations Begin on Trade Accord With EU

AU2903181596 Skopje MIC in English 29 Mar 96

[FBIS TRanscribed Text] Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] and the European Union started negotiations for signing an agreement on trade and cooperation in Brussels yesterday. The two-day negotiations, at official and technical level, are expected to be continued with one or eventually two more meetings at technical level, before the second round announced for 28 May. Minister Miljoski, who leads the Macedonian delegation, was quite suspicious before leaving for Brussels whether this "schedule" will be observed, in view of the complexity of the question that are to be discussed.

According to the established views, the Macedonian delegation will be against regional connection as a condition for future incorporation in the Union's integrative processes, as well as any more specific promises in terms of the future status as associated member, after an eventual fulfillment of the set conditions.

FYROM: Italy Introduces Visa Requirement for Citizens

AU2903182196 Skopje MIC in English 29 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As of 4 April, Macedonian [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] citizens travelling to Italy will be required to obtain entrance visas. The visas will be issued in the Italian Embassy in the Republic of Macedonia, the Macedonian Foreign Ministry announced, calling upon an official notice from the Italian Embassy.

FYROM: Albanian PRUP Leader Outlines Party Goals

AU2903202996 Zurich BOTA SOT in Albanian 25 Mar 96 p 7

[Unattributed report: "The Constitutional Position of Albanians Not Satisfactory"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Skopje, 24 March—On the occasion of inaugurating their new headquarters, which will be located in Skopje, the Republican Party of People's Unity [PRUP—Partia Republikane e Unitetit Popullor] gave a news conference yesterday for mass media correspondents. Nevzat Halili, the chairman of this party, stressed among other things that in its program, the party has underlined cooperation with all the parties in Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Party of Macedonia—FYROM] that have a democratic orientation and are committed to a better future for Macedonia. Nevzat Halili reported that at the last main assembly, held in October 1995, the proposal was approved that this party be called the Republican Party of People's Unity (it had previously been called the Party for Democratic Prosperity—Party for People's Unity), and that this party pledge to respect the human rights guaranteed by international acts and organizations of which Macedonia is a member.

Halili said that as a party we are against violence and fully support dialogue and equality. Regarding Albanians in Macedonia, I think that their constitutional position does not satisfy our demands and commitments, also considering the fact that Albanians have rendered their contribution to Macedonia's independence. The representation of Albanians in institutions is extremely small, and a greater commitment is demanded in this respect.

FYROM: Opposition Parties Seek Early Elections

AU2903192496 Skopje PULS in Macedonian 29 Mar 96 p 13

[Commentary by Sinisa Stankovic: "Big Race"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Everybody was taking care of the voters during the last week. The government finally decided to regulate questions related to the way in which the signatures of the voters will be collected (referendums are only dealt with in one article of the Constitution) and to facilitate and elaborate their direct participation in the accomplishment of power in the Republic of Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM], while the opposition presented two initiatives for early elections.

The parliamentary opposition—the LP [Liberal Party]—is asking, for the third time in the history of the Assembly, for new and early elections through a transitory phase and the dissolution of the Assembly (Article 63, page 6 of the Macedonian Constitution).

The extraparliamentary opposition—the VMRO-DPMNE [Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity] and the DP [Democratic Party]—collected 162,000 signatures for a referendum on early elections.

Both initiatives have the same goal—to offer the voters a chance to elect a new government that is, according to these parties, different from the present government that "does not enjoy the confidence of the citizens." The interests of the parliamentary and extraparliamentary parties did not merge simply because of the LP's view that the Assembly has to decide on early elections. "If it (the Assembly) does not do this for of political or any other reasons, then the LP parliamentary group will support the initiative for collecting signatures,"

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Stojan Andov, the president of the LP parliamentary group said. In his opinion, this should be preceded by an appropriate legal regulation, and this field is totally uncovered, because of which "all the efforts of the initiators for collecting signatures can easily be downgraded, and the citizens may be harassed in vain." According to Andov, this "can foster a big disappointment among those who submitted their signatures for early elections, and it could lead to a totally different political crisis that nobody desires!" At the moment this issue of PULS reaches the hands of the readers, the outcome of the voting for the draft law on the dissolution of the Assembly will be known, as well as the answer to the question that is often asked by the Liberals: "Is there enough potential in the Assembly for democracy in the executive power, or will the majority be used to stop initiatives either inside or outside the assembly in order to pressurize the forces that are motivated by democracy?"

The forces outside the assembly, which consider themselves to be motivated by democracy, believe that, regardless of the outcome of the LP initiatives, the greatest influence will come from the support that their initiatives will obtain throughout the towns in Macedonia. These attempts for early elections are not new in Macedonian political life (witness the activities of MAAK [Movement for All-Macedonian Action] and the Trade Union), but even the experiences so far have shown that the veracity of the 150,000 citizens' signatures can be easily checked, as well as the status of the voters, including the real number of signatures that is submitted by the initiator. So, the coordinated political action of the VMRO-DPMNE and the DP, called "the civic initiative for the collection of 150,000 signatures for early parliamentarian elections," forced the present government to accelerate the preparation of the law on collecting signatures of voters for a referendum or for changes to the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia and to adopt it at yesterday's Assembly session in a short procedure. According to this draft, the hitherto problems related to the collection of signatures "in the street" or "in apartments" are to be solved according to Article 4, which reads as follows: "The signatures of the voters are to be given in special offices of the administration of the Ministry of Justice—that is, in local offices, which are competent to decide about the right to elections—as well as in 120 local communities—that is, in every polling station...."

Although Justice Minister Vlado Popovski stated at the news conference that the adoption of this law has not been accelerated and that his ministry and the government have not rushed into the initiative of the opposition, because the "government had placed it on the agenda for Monday, and it was announced on Friday that the action of collecting signatures would start on Sunday." The leaders of the extraparliamentary opposition said that their initiative had been announced in January, that is February [as published]. This is why the action of the government, in terms of the activity of the extraparliamentary opposition for collecting signatures, met with such reactions. (Even the Liberals believed that this law should have been adopted much earlier, "because the democratic mechanism for the expression of the will of the citizens was missing"). As for DP President Petar Gosev, "the highest authorities reacted in panic when they became aware that the action would be successful and that it would mark the end of their arrogant and incompetent rule," and that the "government is making a mockery of the legal system and thus creating instability in the state because of personal interests." VMRO-DPMNE President Ljupco Georgievski stated at the news conference that the action for the collection of signatures is totally in line with the existing legal regulations and that the new draft law for collecting signatures is drafted in such a way as to obstruct any possible future civic initiatives for the collection of signatures.

Although it is possible to discuss how civic the current action of the VMRO-DPMNE and the DP really is, Georgievski's arguments that "there will be few citizens who will go to a court or to a communal administration, to an office of a representative of the present government, and say that thay wish to sign to indicate that they want to overturn the government" can hardly be disputed, but it is easier to believe in the assessment that the present government is offering a solution that favors itself in an urgent way. It is true that the adoption of the law will not affect the further expression of the political will of the citizens, except that it will be for the Assembly to evaluate whether the whole procedure of collecting signatures is compatible with the legal regulations. If it is rejected, "the signatories may be disappointed" and a possible "different political crisis," as Andov said, may emerge.

For now, only the members and the fans of the SDSM [Social Democratic Alliance of Macedonia] are disappointed because of the manners of the political opponents during the action. According to an SDSM's press release, an "increasing number of citizens" are calling the presidency of this party and its communal organizations to protest against the "incorrect attitude of the collectors of signatures," the DP and VMRO-DPMNE agitators who are active in town squares and in houses. According to the SDSM press release, there have even been some cases of threats, pressure, and violent intrusions into apartments accompanied with

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

"attempts to persuade the citizens that the action is also supported by the president of the state!" As is normal, the president has not given his opinion on the action. However, after the attempts of the SDSM and the LP to persuade the citizens, during the times of the agony of the Alliance for Macedonia, that they enjoy President Gligorov's support—if the SDSM press release is correct—this, aside from the DP's efforts to score some points at Gligorov-Gosev meetings, is the first attempt of the extraparliamentary parties to persuade the public of their alleged newly established "close links" with the president.

According to the press release that was signed by Risto Penov (DP) and Dosta Dimovska (VMRO-DPMNE), the initiators were ready to submit the 162,000 signatures collected to the Assembly. We will have to wait and see how big an effect this great support for the initiative of the VMRO-DPMNE and the DP will have on the political scene in Macedonia (they announced that they will continue the action and end up with 350,000 signatures). Nevertheless, it is more likely that the possible 350,000 signatures, as well as the support that they have received from the voters—about which foreign diplomatic offices have been informed, as well as the Council of Europe and some other international factors—will be used as moral capital that can be augmented in a further political struggle rather than to influence the political map in Macedonia. On the other hand, the government and the opposition often boast of foreign support. While the opposition does not name the overseas politicians who support it, the U.S. State Department's support for the present government is clearly visible. (And this can have a significant role, as was the example with neighboring Albania).

It is clear that the present government believes that the conditions are not right for early elections and that it will be happy to wait for the regular term of the elections. The public statements of the government leaders are clear. Prime Minister Crvenkovski, for instance, stated the following in his interview last week: "It is evident that these parties (the opposition) do not have the patience to wait so long, and they started a campaign for early elections with the only one goal—to take over power." (Ooopppss!). At the same time, Crvenkovski is convinced that the VMRO-DPMNE and the DP, neither with their program nor with their personnel, can offer a better alternative for the future of the Republic of Macedonia and for its citizens.

We will have to wait and see whether those whose future is at stake share this opinion.

FYROM: Assembly Adopts Law on Collection of Signatures

AU2903181296 Skopje MIC in English 29 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At its 42nd session yesterday, the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] adopted the law on the procedure for the collection of signatures of voters.

The proposal of the Liberal Party, that is not to apply the decrees of this law on the civil initiatives that are underway, was not accepted after a two-hour debate. Applauding the amendment of the Liberal Party, the representative of the PDPA [Party for Democratic Prosperity of Albanians] Rufi Osmani said that these two sentences have hit the "bull's eye" in terms of the actual reason why this law is adopted.

The representatives of the oppositional parties said that it would be better if the law were to be adopted in regular procedure and that a withdrawal of the law, as long as the initiative of the VMRO-DPMNE [Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity] and Democratic Party is on-going, would contribute to the democracy in Macedonia.

Minister of Justice Vlado Popovski said in front of the representatives that the need to bring the law is obvious, as there is no procedural law which has built-in legal norms which would regulate the law on the collection of signatures, their credibility and verification.

"Those rights can be deceived, manipulated and some other freedoms and rights can be threatened. This law is simple, clear and realistically feasible," Popovski said.

The preparations for this legal project were based on the standards of the comparative experiences from Switzerland, where it was determined by federal law that signatures are not collected anywhere and anyhow, as it could cause traffic jams and direct clashes with proponents of some other initiative.

Asked whether he regards the signatures collected by VMRO-DPMNE and DP as valid, Popovski said that he is not competent to make such a decision and that there is a special institution that decides on that.

The representative of SDSM [Social Democratic Alliance of Macedonia] Tuse Gosev said that the Constitutional Court should decide whether the procedure is legitimate, and not this law. The representatives of the Liberal Party remarked that the proposed law has no final or transitional decrees, and asked that it has not bearing on the initiatives that are underway, whose

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

legitimacy, according to them, should be determined according to the to-date legal and constitutional decisions.

The proposer and a couple of SDSM representatives said there is no need for such decrees as the collection of signatures has not been regulated by any law so far. According to the representative of SDSM Ignatie Bogdanovski, the initiative that is underway is a political, and not a civil initiative, as it is called.

The session is continuing today, as well as the debate on the Government proposal for the adoption of a new penal code.

FYROM: Poll Shows Lack of Trust in Police, Courts

AU2903155996 Skopje VECER in Macedonian 29 Mar 96 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Citizens Do Not Feel Safe"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Up to 45 percent of the citizens do not feel safe, secure, or protected. These are the results of an opinion poll on the topic "Crime and legal safety of the citizens," which was carried out by DATA PRESS Agency especially for NOVA MAKEDONIJA.

A total of 1,200 people were contacted by telephone in March, and nearly half of them said that they felt neither safe nor protected. Asked whether Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] represented a safe place for living, the questioned divided themselves into two nearly equal groups; 38 percent answered positively, while 36 percent had an opposite opinion. Thirty-four percent see the causes for rising crime in the rapid impoverishment of the population, 23.5 percent in the violation of the laws, and 20 percent in the illegal accumulation of individual wealth. Forty-four percent of the citizens said that they did not trust the courts and 30 percent shared the same opinion about the police.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Poland: Rosati Views Poland's Access to NATO, Russia

WS0104122396 Warsaw POLITYKA in Polish 30 Mar 96 p 13

[Article by Polish Foreign Minister Dariusz Rosati: "Closer to NATO"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The question of NATO expansion to the East has gathered unexpected momentum over the last few weeks. The sudden activation of Russian foreign policy, designed partly to hold back the process, and partly to win applause from Russian public opinion with the approach of presidential elections, elicited stronger reactions than had been anticipated in both Eastern Europe and NATO itself. This has led to a more clear-cut definition of positions held by all parties concerned and, paradoxically, has brought closer the perspective of NATO expansion.

In a series of meetings with political leaders from Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Poland, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeni Primakov once again reiterated firm objections to NATO plans for expansion to the East, stressing at the same time that Russia does not usurp the right to voice its "veto" in this matter. There are, however, two new aspects in Russia's approach to the question: the initiation of talks on the subject with Eastern European countries, and, secondly, the widely demonstrated desire to reach a reasonable "compromise." The second element is indicative of an attempt to take over diplomatic initiative in order to demonstrate, especially toward the West, Russia's constructive approach to the question of security. The proposals presented by Primakov as alternative solutions to NATO expansion, such as unilateral or bilateral guarantees for East European countries or limiting their engagement only to political structures, are evidence of greater flexibility in Russian politics, at least on the plane of [political] instruments applied.

If these tactical moves have been intended to constrain the process of NATO expansion, they have proved ineffective. First, because the nations of Eastern Europe have spoken in virtually one voice. Stressing the need for continuing the dialogue that has started with Russia, they have strong-mindedly rejected Primakov's "compromise" proposal as not guaranteeing national security and have repeated their decisive will to join the NATO alliance. Second, because NATO Secretary General Javier Solana made it very clear during his recent visit to Moscow that the decision to expand NATO has already been made and the Alliance will not withdraw from its plans. And third, at the meeting with Eastern European ministers of foreign affairs in Prague, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher thought it appropriate to once again confirm the U.S. position on NATO expansion. That is an important message, not only for Russia, but also for other members of the alliance. It is also an indication of the United States' serious regard for Central European countries, which received assurances of the endorsement of their aspirations to NATO literally a day before Christopher started his visit to Moscow.

This series of events has given new dynamism to the process of NATO expansion, despite fears voiced here and there, that upcoming presidential elections in Russia will set this issue off course. We greet with satisfaction these declarations by Western leaders, and await for concrete decisions. At the same time, we must emphasize that Poland's accession to NATO is not aimed against anyone; on the contrary, it is a step that will strengthen security and stability in Europe. We hope that in Russia too this position will meet with understanding as political emotions calm down after the elections.

Poland: Official on EU Conference in Turin

WS2903142896 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 29 Mar 96 p 6

[Interview with Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, government plenipotentiary for European Integration and Foreign Aid, by Katarzyna Kolodziejczyk; place and date not given: "Success of EU Reform Is in Our Interest"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kolodziejczyk] The EU will be able to accept new countries only when it reforms itself. On the day of the opening of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) debates in Turin I would like to ask which scenario, in your opinion, would be most favorable for Poland.

[Saryusz-Wolski] Generally speaking, it would be best if the Conference were lively, short and successful. And if the EU member states considered the implemented reforms and final conclusions to be sufficient to extend the Union. The EU is expected to accept 17-18 countries at first, and 27 later. Specifically at issue are the following topics: EU and citizens, i.e. the democratic foundations of decisionmaking; improvement of EU institutions, and coordination of external identity, i.e. a common foreign policy and security.

[Kolodziejczyk] The Copenhagen Conference of June 1993 obliged the EU to accept new members. Thus, that issue will not be discussed in Turin. In your opinion, does the change consist in the fact that for the first time the EU is to embrace countries which have relatively recently returned to democracy?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Saryusz-Wolski] The extension of the Union to the east is also a transition from West European integration to integration on a continental scale—in the cultural and civilization dimension of Europe as a whole. It is significant to avoid an autoblockade of the EU institutions at such a level of integration. The Turin Conference is to enable the EU to be ready to accept new members whilst remaining an efficient, effective, open, and cooperative Union.

[Kolodziejczyk] Since we are to become an element of the future European architecture, should we not express our opinions on the reform of the EU?

[Saryusz-Wolski] Poland has tried to obtain observer status to the IGC. We did not get it. However, like all the other EU associate states, we were invited to the opening of the Conference. Had we been observers at the Conference, we would have been allowed to take the floor. We should also bear in mind that we lack the experience of the "15," which they acquired through participation in various EU institutions. We cannot speak about all issues from the position of an outsider.

[Kolodziejczyk] What does the Polish Government intend to do in order to keep things under control?

[Saryusz-Wolski] First, to be aware. We have been invited to briefings, every other month, at which we will be informed about the course of the Conference and the decisions made at the IGC. It is also important for us to be acquainted with the standpoints of the member states and representatives of EU institutions so that we may analyze the proceedings of the Intergovernmental Conference from the perspective of Polish interests.

Poland: Kwasniewski Wants To Meet Opposition in Belarus

LD2903205196 Warsaw TVP Television First Program Network in Polish 1830 GMT 29 Mar 96

[Video report by unidentified correspondent, including recorded comments by Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski; from the "Wiadomosci" newscast—relayed by Warsaw TV Polonia]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Aleksander Kwasniewski has said that during his visit to Belarus he most probably will meet with representatives of the opposition there. An appeal for such a meeting has been made by, among others, Marian Krzaklewski, the head of the Solidarity trade union, and other representatives of the opposition.

At a news conference at the presidential palace today, Aleksander Kwasniewski summed up the [first] 100 days of his presidency.

[Unidentified correspondent] The president justified his decision yesterday that, despite the appeals of the opposition not to meet with President Lukashenka, he will travel to Belarus.

[Kwasniewski] Poland is interested in the welfar being and success of independent Belarus. And Poland is also interested in showing the world that it is signals of dialogue, signals of stability and normality, and not other signals, that are coming from Poland. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Asked about delays in the appointment of the National Security Council, which was to have been a place of discussion on the Polish raison d'etat for persons with various political pedigrees, the president said that the best adviser on this matter is patience.

[Kwasniewski] I have been talking about the creation of the National Security Council for three months, and I judge that the fourth month might end with success.

[Correspondent] Commenting upon the concepts that have recently appeared in the statements of certain Russian politicians, the president said that he does not see any possibility of discussion about a partial, for instance only political and not military, participation by Poland in NATO.

[Kwasniewski] Poland is interested in having a presence in NATO. We will talk about the details when this decision is undertaken, in the framework of negotiations. The concept that you present here, of a partial presence in NATO, is one that does not exist, unless you happen to be speaking of Partnership for Peace.

[Correspondent] Over the [first] 100 days of his presidency, Aleksander Kwasniewski has signed 30 laws and has also proposed one legislative draft of his own, for a vetting law. He has also ratified 10 international agreements and has made eight foreign visits.

Poland: Media on Purported Russian-Proposed Corridor

96P20368A

[FBIS Report] Polish media have given wide coverage to reports that Moscow has proposed building a corridor through Poland that would provide Russia with access to Kaliningrad, a Russian territory on the Baltic Sea that is not contiguous with Russia proper.

The issue emerged on 28 February, when Polonia TV Network reported that Russian President Yeltsin and Belarus President Lukashenka had discussed asking Poland to permit the building of a "transit corridor" connecting Belarus, which permits Russian transit, with Kaliningrad. The proposed corridor would go through

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the Suwalki voivodship on Polish territory, the report stated. While stressing that the proposal was verbal and therefore "unofficial," a Polish Government official said that Warsaw expected to receive a written proposal from Moscow (WARSAW VOICE, 10 March).

Although Russian Foreign Minister Primakov subsequently said during a visit to Warsaw that the "corridor is out of the question" and that the Polish media had manufactured the issue (ITAR-TASS, 14 March), some Polish media reports on the issue were apparently based on Polish Government statements and purported statements by Primakov himself. For example, the daily TRYBUNA on 28 February published a communique of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs raising the possibility that "this issue will be discussed by Yevgeniy Primakov during his 14-15 March visit to Poland." The Polish press also quoted Primakov as saying during a recent visit to Bratislava that, "if Warsaw approved the project," a part of the road connecting Kaliningrad with Russia proper "would run through Poland, and Poland would be able to use it also" (RZECZPOSPOLITA, 1 March).

The Russian corridor proposal met with wide opposition in Poland, the media reported. The idea found no supporters in the governing coalition or in the opposition parties, according to the independent daily RZECZPOSPOLITA (29 February). During a visit to Lithuania, Polish President Kwasniewski called the corridor plan "unacceptable," stressing that it would cause environmental problems. He also agreed with Lithuanian President Brazauskas that a Russian corridor through Poland might damage Polish-Lithuanian relations because Lithuania already provides a transit route for Russia (Wiadomosci TV Network, 5 and 6 March) that Vilnius finds profitable. Reports suggest, however, that Russia made overtures to Poland about an alternative route since Vilnius introduced high transit fees last year, according to RZECZPOSPOLITA (12 March).

Poland: Prime Minister's Address on Law, Order

LD3003212896 Warsaw TV Polonia Network in Polish 1900 GMT 30 Mar 96

[Television address by Polish Prime Minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz, date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good evening. I am devoting my first television meeting with you to the upsetting subject of crime. Yesterday, the Sejm looked at this subject. At the initiative of the Council of Ministers and upon the basis of its report, deputies discussed how to more effectively fight crime. For my government, the security of citizens is very important. I personally declare that I will devote much time and attention to the fight against crime.

Citizens do not feel safe and it is not particularly relevant that in other countries the situation is still worse. The indicators for the number of crimes per 100,000 inhabitants in France is, for instance, over two times greater than in Poland. Nonetheless, in Poland in the years 1989-95 crime increased very significantly. It is very disturbing that ever more murders and armed robberies are taking place, that acts of protection racketeering, earlier unknown in Poland, are taking place.

A few days ago the country was shocked by the murder of Wojtek Krol, a student of the Warsaw Technical University, who by chance crossed the path of bandits. This matter touched me acutely. This could have been the child of any of us, mine too.

Fundamental questions are being asked ever more frequently. Is the state capable of opposing the wave of lawlessness, of abuse of legal norms, and of the principles of social coexistence? Are we prepared to repress the organized crime that is being born before our very eyes?

As the head of the government, understanding the responsibility laid upon me for the fate of the country, I reply: Yes.

Citizens wish to have the certainty that they will not remain under a permanent state of threat. They wish to know that their state will effectively fight against crime. Firmness, iron consistency, and doggedness are indispensable in this struggle. I state with all force: My government and I personally do have this will for action. Poland must be a country where criminals do not feel sure of themselves, where justice effectively reaches for them.

Already in the first days during which I held my post I met with the leading figures in the Ministries of Justice and Internal Affairs and also with the leadership of the police to discuss this matter. The previous government adopted a crime-fighting program. It continues to apply.

Last year legal initiatives were undertaken with the aim of the faster and more effective criminal investigation. New institutions were introduced, hitherto unknown in Poland, the controlled bribe and the anonymous witness. Thanks to this, it will be easier for the police to fight economic crimes and citizens will be able to present testimony without fear for their own safety. The departments in the police and the State Protection Office for fighting against organized crime have been strengthened. We will reorganize the structures of the police for the better exploitation of its strengths and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

resources there where the greatest threats are to be found. This is a correction of the errors from the start of the 1990's, when the Economic Crime Department was prematurely abolished.

The completely unnecessarily abolished post of local beat officer is also being reinstituted as the main link between police and citizens.

The Border Guard has been strengthened to limit the illegal crossing of borders and stop the process of smuggling stolen cars.

Cooperation with police forces of other states has been widened. This is yielding results in an increased detection rate with regard to the perpetrators of various crimes.

A court police force is currently being formed.

The cooperation of police with personal and property security firms is being increased.

So as to satisfy the financial needs of the police, the government last year dipped into its reserves and allocated additional resources. This was a drop in the ocean of needs, but considering the state's financial possibilities, it was significant support that other ministries did not receive.

Four days ago the government adopted a bill on amending the Penal Code. In it we propose the concept of categorized murder [zabojstwo kwalifikowane]. The perpetrator of a murder carried out with particular cruelty or with the use of firearms is to bear a more severe responsibility, i.e. a prison sentence of not less than 10 years. This also applies to murders linked with hostage-taking, rape, or robbery. There will be a distinctly harsher penalty for anyone who kills more than one person with one action or who was previously sentenced for murder. We propose harsher sanctions for illegal possession or production of weapons, ammunition, and explosive material. The perpetrator of these deeds will receive a prison sentence of not less than three years. We ask the Sejm to pass these changes urgently.

The government will soon be examining the arms and ammunition bill. Access to arms will become more difficult. We intend to introduce solutions that will give the Interior Ministry Nadwislanskie Military Units the authority to carry out some police functions and will strengthen the services directly involved in the fight against crime. Legal bases will be created for some police functions to be taken over by parish guards [strazy gminne]. The police will therefore be able to concentrate on fighting the most dangerous crime.

I realize the state of public emotion and the demands coming from many sides for the restoration of the death penalty, which was suspended in Poland. I understand the demands for drastically harsher punishments. I think, although I know that this does not sound popular, that this will not, however, be rational. Criminals are deterred by a law that is effectively carried out. The inevitability of punishment is of fundamental importance, although I admit that punishment for some crimes must be greater than hitherto, which is what the government is proposing.

Every human drama, violent and unnecessary death, families' pain, and the unease of the groups affected by crime arouse sympathy, moral opposition, and severe condemnation. I do not think, however, that anger and a desire for revenge are a good basis for fighting crime effectively. The most dangerous criminals can be taken out of society by means other than by applying the death penalty. I have serious doubts whether, in the majesty of the state, taking the life of anyone, even a criminal, should be accepted. There is probably something humiliating in this, not only to the victim, but also to the state that applies such methods of punishment. I recommend to doubters the morally impressive work "A Short Film About Killing" by Krzysztof Kieslowski, who died recently.

And one more comment. Some people are trying to make easy political capital out of rising crime. I think this kind of attitude is simply dishonest and harmful to the public good. We hear demagogic calls for cadre purges and new vetting in the investigative bodies. Today's police is basically made up of new young people, who have been doing the job for several years. It cleanses its ranks itself of demoralized people who infringe police dignity. Our police vitally needs stability and increased public confidence. I demand that the problems of fighting crime, and protection, security, and public order be excluded from the sphere of disputes and political games. We should make the fight against the most rampant manifestations of lawlessness the common cause of all Poles. Let us regard it as a challenge facing society and the state.

In a recent conversation with Primate Jozef Glemp, we spoke of the need to strengthen law and order. I obtained the assurance that the Catholic Church will support the state's efforts to guarantee citizens' personal safety. I accept this declaration by a high moral authority with great satisfaction. The scale of social mobilization in opposition to crime impresses and arouses hope. It is seen in the protest marches in the Tri-city [Gdansk, Gdynia, Sopot on the Baltic], Lodz, and Warsaw. The everyday help of citizens is essential help to the police, the Prosecutor's Office and courts.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

This activity often bears fruit in the rapid apprehension of criminals. We have clear evidence of this. Not only our police, but every police force deprived of society's support and understanding, will not achieve much. Local government and social organizations, and other interested institutions can do a great deal to improve the safety of our homes, streets, schools, parking lots, and shopping centers. Specially protected zones of large conurbations are the transfer of already tried and tested Western experiments to Poland. We have noted the first successful local undertakings in this sphere. I know that the problem of safe zones has given rise to heated and, in my opinion, unjustified emotions. I would like therefore to explain. The interior minister is concerned with the proportion of the dangers and the resources. Thanks to these proposals, there will not be a lack of police anywhere, and there will be more of them in the danger zones.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is not only we in Poland who are experiencing rising crime. Profound changes, particularly in the economic system, have always been conducive to that. We must fight crime together with the forces of the state and of society. My government will do this and I appeal to you to do so. A safe home, town, and countryside. A safe Poland and its citizens. Let us make this a common cause above other matters that divide us. Then we will achieve success. I am sure of that. Thank you for your attention.

Poland: Cimoszewicz Accused of Promoting Dishonest Officials

WS0104071196 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 29 Mar 96 p 2

[Report by "F.F.": "KPN Appeals to the Prime Minister: Complete the 'Clean Hands' Campaign"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *As many as 30 members of the current government, among them five ministers, were accused in the 'clean hands' campaign launched by Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz against state officials who misappropriated funds. The prime minister should remember that a year and a half ago he brought charges against those officials and demanded that they be removed from the government, claims the Confederation for an Independent Poland [KPN].*

In 1994 Cimoszewicz, justice minister and prosecutor general at the time, revealed the names of 56 high-ranking state officials who received remuneration for membership on the boards of Treasury-owned state companies. Such practices violated the provisions of the Remuneration Law for top state officials dated 1981 and the Anticorruption Law of 1992.

The KPN went on to compile an independent list of 98 dishonest officials. It presented it to the prosecutor general. A long silence followed. It was up to the incumbent prime minister to either hold the perpetrators responsible or file a lawsuit. The public, however, has never been informed whether the state officials paid the consequences and whether they returned the money. Currently, 30 of them remain in the government. "We demand that they be dismissed and forced to pay back the money they had no right to appropriate," says Deputy Adam Slomka.

The KPN points out that, when forming the new cabinet, Prime Minister Cimoszewicz not only failed to oust the shamed officials, but even went so far as to promote many of them to the rank of minister. Among them are Miroslaw Pietrewicz (deputy prime minister, head of the Central Planning Office), Stanislaw Dobrzanski (defense minister), Jacek Buchacz (minister of foreign economic cooperation), and Andrzej Baczkowski (minister of labor). Minister of Transportation Boguslaw Liberadzki kept his office. The KPN estimates that these officials owe between 20 million and 400 million zlotys plus interest to the State Treasury.

Poland: Oleksy Case Commission Interviews UOP Officers

WS0104120296 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 29 Mar 96 p 2

[Article by Jerzy Jachowicz: "Special Commission on Oleksy Case; What Was UOP Doing in Moscow?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday two former officers of the Office of State Protection [UOP] denied having approached the Russian secret services with an offer of cooperating against the Polish postcommunists.

In December 1991 Wojciech Brochwicz and Bartlomiej Sienkiewicz of UOP went to Moscow in connection with the so-called Moscow money (borrowed by the Polish United Workers Party from the CPSU). Yesterday they were heard by the special Sejm commission investigating whether UOP had violated the law in the Oleksy case. Leszek Miller of the Social Democracy of the Polish Republic and head of the Office of the Council of Ministers claims that the UOP delegates tried to persuade the Russians to take part in a plot against his party. He refuses to reveal his source of information.

Brochwicz, currently deputy chief of the Border Guards, told GAZETA WYBORCZA that although he was one of the seven UOP delegates who went to Moscow, neither he nor Sienkiewicz had any secret mission to fulfill. Brochwicz admitted that he had met with officers of the Russian secret services apart from plenary

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

discussions but never alone. He was accompanied by another officer and an interpreter at all times.

"It is absurd to charge UOP with such unintelligent behavior," he said. "Something like that would have humiliated us immediately."

The commission also heard General Marian Zacharski, an adviser to the UOP chief, and chief of intelligence Colonel Boguslaw Libera for a third time. Commission members Bogdan Borusewicz (of the Freedom Union) and Tadeusz Iwinski (of the Democratic Left Alliance) told us that both upheld their previous testimony claiming that the UOP materials in the Oleksy case are thorough and accurate.

Poland: Probability of Dropping Oleksy Case Discussed

WS2903152396 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 29 Mar 96 p 2

[Article by Agnieszka Kublik: "Rumor Has It That the Oleksy Case Might Be Dropped; Secrets of the Prosecutor's Office"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *Will the inquiry into the Oleksy case be dropped? Such a suggestion has been made by, among others, Colonel Andrzej Kapkowski, acting head of the Office of State Protection [UOP] and a serious candidate to head this organization.*

Asked by RZECZPOSPOLITA what decision he thought the Prosecutor's Office would make on the Oleksy case, Kapkowski replied: "I presume it will be dropped."

Col. Kapkowski refused to talk to GAZETA WYBORCZA yesterday. It is said at UOP that he is not pleased with the interview (the first he ever gave in his career) and does not want any more trouble. The UOP officers we spoke with unofficially claim Kapkowski does not believe the Oleksy case will be dropped. "He is taking all possible scenarios into account, including an investigation launched against Oleksy."

We learned at UOP that the military prosecutor supervising the Oleksy case, Colonel Slawomir Gorzkiewicz, has requested UOP to provide more detailed information, is asking additional questions, and is interviewing UOP officers once again. Our interlocutors claim this does not seem to indicate that the case will be dropped.

For the past few weeks, politicians from the Democratic Left Alliance [SLD] have been spreading rumors that the case will be dropped. They maintain that this was made clear by Col. Gorzkiewicz, who said at the end of February that the decision on the further course of the investigation could be made "within a period of three months"—that is, by April. This supposedly implies that the prosecutor will not make a motion in the Sejm to waive Jozef Oleksy's parliamentary immunity; (the procedure requires more than three months). Since no motion will be put forward to lift the immunity, there will be no investigation launched against Oleksy.

Sources close to the Prosecutor's Office say that this theory is supported by lack of sufficient evidence that Oleksy knowingly passed confidential information to a foreign agent.

As we may all remember, former Interior Minister Andrzej Milczanowski said in his Sejm address on 21 December of last year: "In the years 1990-95, Mr. Jozef Oleksy held many meetings with foreign intelligence agents, during which he knowingly passed on information and documents, including confidential ones."

SLD politicians have long since ruled out the possibility that Oleksy might have collaborated with a foreign intelligence service. Yet in the first days of January General Ryszard Michalowski, head of the Supreme Military Prosecutor's Office, wrote a letter to the interior minister requesting him to "submit any documents proving that, throughout the period of his collaboration, Oleksy was aware whom he was supplying information to."

Poland: Problems of Ethnic Minorities Discussed

WS0104131196 Szczecin GLOS SZCZECINSKI in Polish 9-10 Mar 96 p 7

[Interview with Deputy Henryk Kroll, a member of the Polish Sejm Committee for National and Ethnic Minorities, by Elzbieta Karasiewicz; place and date not given: "We Need Truth Without Bargaining"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *A session of the Sejm Committee for National and Ethnic Minorities has taken place in Szczecin. The committee members met with representatives of provincial and municipal representatives as well as representatives of all ethnic minorities residing in Szczecin voivodship.*

The most important document of the Council of Europe, which makes coexistence of people of various nationalities in one country possible, is the Convention on Protection of Ethnic Minorities, signed by Poland in February of 1995. The convention guarantees ethnic minorities equality before the law. The ban on discrimination is the first multilateral legal tool that nations are obliged to respect. The size of ethnic minorities in Poland is estimated at 1 to 1.3 million people.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Karasiewicz] You meet representatives of national minorities not only in Szczecin. What is your assessment of their situation and problems in Poland?

[Kroll] When it comes to the German minority in Szczecin, its situation is totally different from that in Opole voivodship. In Szczecin, the German minority is dispersed, similarly to all other minorities, including the Ukrainian one, which is very active. The approach to minorities here is quite different from that in the areas where they live in conglomerations. The German minority lives in a large conglomeration, mainly in Silesia, the Belarusian one in the Bialystok area, and the Lithuanian one, among others, in some areas of the Suwalki voivodship. The activity, naturally, is greater and easier there. The involvement of the members of the dispersed national minorities is very high, their activity is extremely strong, and one should accept it positively.

[Karasiewicz] In your view, do any of these minorities have a feeling of fewer opportunities to develop their identity?

[Kroll] All minorities have a kind of deficit [as published]. When I am asked what is the biggest problem of minorities in general, I say it is insufficient knowledge of the history of the minorities in our society. What "troubles" the minorities most of all is the postwar history. To the Ukrainian minority, it is the "Vistula Action," and to the Germans, it is the postwar period of displacement and Polonization. In both cases, there is no point in competing to see who suffered most. But, unfortunately, this is the case—which minority was worst off. The thing is to tell the truth without arguing. If the truth is told, then the chances for mutual understanding will be much better.

[Karasiewicz] Apart from this uncomfortable historical truth, there is also the heterogeneous present, which opens up totally new opportunities for agreement. After all, the Polish-German border area is where a German is less "foreign" than in other parts of Poland.

[Kroll] This is a problem, too. Various stereotypes are created far from the place where a given minority lives. For instance, the myth about the German minority living in Silesia is created around Lublin and Warsaw. In the area where they live together, where they have known each other for decades, there are no problems with such stereotypes.

[Karasiewicz] The Convention on the Protection of National Minorities has been signed by 31 out of 38 members of the Council of Europe. Does the Committee for National Minorities pursue its ratification?

[Kroll] The issue is quite complex. Thus far, only four nations have ratified it (Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and Spain, ed.) The majority of nations are reluctant to ratify it. Obviously, we are interested in ratifying the convention, but we deal, most of all, with domestic regulations in the form of a constitutional provision and the law on national minorities.

[Karasiewicz] What is your assessment of those parts of the constitutional draft that refer to minorities?

[Kroll] I am personally not happy about the regulations proposed in the constitution. I have some proposals for minor amendments.

Poland: BBWR Expels Chairman, Appoints Replacement

LD3003192396 Warsaw Polskie Radio First Program Network in Polish 1800 GMT 30 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jerzy Gwizdz has been expelled from the BBWR [Non-Party Bloc in Support of Reforms]. An extraordinary congress of the BBWR elected Stanislaw Kowolik, a BBWR Sejm deputy and the chairman of the parliamentary group for family affairs, as its new leader. BBWR congress delegates had earlier recalled Chairman Jerzy Gwizdz from his post, and then expelled him from the association. [passage omitted]

Poland: State Secrets Law Possibly Broached by Phone Firm

WS0104065396 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 29 Mar 96 p 15

[Article by Anna Marszalek: "Centertel Under Investigation; Cellular Phones Abroad"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *At the request of the Appellate Prosecutor's Office, the Warsaw Voivodship Prosecutor's Office has launched an investigation into the Centertel cellular phone company, which supplied a data base containing information about its customers to a foreign company. There is reason to presume that the law on state and professional secrets might have been violated.*

The first suspicions were raised by the Supreme Chamber of Control as early as last year. It asked the minister of communications to explain why Centertel handed over an unprotected data base on its customers to a foreign company. The press suggested at the time that information might have been intercepted by foreign intelligence services. The Office of State Protection [UOP] launched an inquiry into the issue. The prosecutor's office, however, refused to institute legal proceedings.

The data base was handed over to a company by the name of Electronic Data Systems (EDS). A special

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

commission established by Centertel tried to establish why a confidentiality clause was not included in the agreement on cooperation between the two firms, as well as the size of the data base and in what form it was handed over. As Centertel Spokesman Tomasz Tywonek gave assurances then, since 1 September 1995, in line with provisions of the cooperation agreement with EDS, "the confidentiality clause protecting all data supplied to that company is very strictly observed. EDS has submitted a legally binding written assurance that any data previously obtained from Centertel are considered confidential, and the received information never included the contents of telephone conversations held by Centertel customers."

Centertel has been cooperating with EDS since 1992. It supplies computer hardware and software used for calculating subscription fees. Over the past three years, it has been supplying data that EDS was to use "for developing software serving the purpose of introducing new services for Centertel customers." "Wiadomosci" [main television newscast] reported yesterday that the Prosecutor's Office has found that the data were sent abroad by courier mail. Ryszard Kucinski, the spokesman for the prosecutor's office, refused to disclose any further details on the grounds that the entire case is confidential. Cellular phone users include not only businessmen and politicians, but also officers from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and UOP. Experts claim that, if foreign intelligence services analyzed the data that were sent abroad, they could establish who spoke with whom. It would be enough to match a billing list with tapped conversations.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Romania: CDR Warns Against Hasty Treaty With Russia

AU2903201896 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 23 Mar 96 p 3

[Statement by CDR President Emil Constantinescu; date not given: "The Treaty With Russia Must Be the Result of a Broad Debate and of Accord Among the Major Political Forces"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 5 April 1996, it will be five years since Ion Iliescu signed in Moscow the treaty through which he attempted to revive the relations between Romania and the Soviet Union that was headed by Mikhail Gorbachev. History itself has canceled that accord, which seriously encroached upon Romania's right to conclude treaties and to choose its own friends and allies, and which linked our foreign policy options to Russia's interests.

Today, the State Duma in Moscow, dominated by communists, is trying to turn back history and revive the Soviet Union. Certainly, each country has the right to decide on its own affairs, however, the USSR's revival equals submitting to discussion the destinies of those people who were part of the communist empire and, in the long run, even of the nations that were in its area of influence for 50 years. The decision of the State Duma must be regarded as a general rehearsal of the drama that could be triggered by the victory of communists in the presidential elections in Russia.

In this context, the intention to conclude a treaty with Russia in the near future, announced recently by President Iliescu, also stirs anxiety. Treaties that regard Romania's relations with other countries that have dramatically influenced its history must always be—and mainly in the last months of the mandate of those currently in power—the result of the broadest possible debate and of a previous accord of all major political forces that have spoken out in favor of European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

The treaty with Russia must be concluded indeed, but no practical or strategic argument is sufficiently grounded to compel Ion Iliescu to conclude this treaty now, hastily.

It is high time for us to understand once and for all, that the destiny of our nation is not the result of some occult games or of our country's unfortunate geopolitical situation. It is high time for us to become certain that it is up to us to select our friends and allies and to forge our own destiny.

The CDR [Democratic Convention of Romania], which represents the will of hundreds of thousands of people who fought and suffered because they opposed communism and the ideas forcefully imported from the USSR, have assumed now, at a time that might be called decisive, the mission to give all Romanians the confidence in our capacity as a nation capable of designing and building our own future.

[Signed] Emil Constantinescu, CDR president

Romania: UDMR Senator on Szeckler Land Autonomy Debates

AU2903201496 Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian 25 Mar 96 p 4

[Unattributed report on statements by participants in a recent meeting held by representatives of the Hungarian minority in Debrecen, Hungary: "Senator Jozsef Csapo Admits in Debrecen That the UDMR Organizations in Harghita and Covasna Discuss the Issue of Szeckler Land Autonomy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After the famous meeting organized last summer by the Hungarian churches to protest the dangers that might be posed against Hungarians living outside Hungary, the town of Debrecen again hosted a meeting of representatives of the Hungarian minorities in the countries bordering Hungary. The topic of the event was "Autonomy in the Carpathian Basin—Chances of Survival." Just as at the previous meeting, the participants focused on the need to clarify the concept of ethnic autonomy, and urged joint action by all Hungarians to implement this idea, Hungary having a decisive role in this action.

The former reform communist leader Imre Pozsgay stated that "the efforts to achieve autonomy made by the Hungarians, the largest minority in the area, are not directed against anybody, but are aimed exclusively at demonstrating to the whole world that self-determination is not only their right, but also their chance. At the Debrecen conference we are trying to make ourselves understood by the neighboring countries that we are fighting not against them, but for the benefit of Hungarians and for our survival. The mother country can help Hungarians abroad by not giving up on them, and by not believing that these minorities mean a burden for Hungary, but rather declaring that the Hungarians are a united nation in the Carpathian basin, and it is solely the result of a historical decision that Hungarians have their homes in various countries."

In turn, Miklos Duray, president of the Political Movement "Cohabitation" of Slovakia, said that the chances for survival are continuously deteriorating for the Hungarians who live in the Carpathian Basin, except for those in the mother country, regardless of where they live, in Slovakia, Romania, or Serbia. The greatest responsibility rests now with Hungary, which can fully

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

represent the interests of Hungarians who live outside the country's borders. In this respect Hungary has a moral right that must be changed into a practical right.

Jozsef Csapo, senator of UDMR [Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania], an organization that has made the greatest contribution to the elaboration of the concept of autonomy, stated that if a nation, a collectivity, gives up on its rights, that nation will perish. The Hungarians in Romania, where all their efforts in this respect are being rejected, do not give up on their rights. The UDMR has worked out its own draft law regarding individual autonomy, local administrative autonomy, as well as territorial autonomy for the Szeckler Land. The territorial autonomy is currently being discussed by the organizations in the Szeckler Land.

Romania: UDMR's Marko 'Victory' Over Tokes Reported

AU2803174596 Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian 22 Mar 96 p 1

[Report by Cristian Mihai Chis: "Bela Marko Kept in Secret the UDMR Leaders' Embezzlement Affair in Hungary"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Csaba Tabajdi, Who Made This Disclosure, Says the Geza Szocs Case Is Just the Tip of the Iceberg

At the press conference that followed the meeting [in Budapest] of the leaders of the ethnic Hungarians' organizations beyond the borders [of Hungary] with Csaba Tabajdi, political secretary of Prime Minister Gyula Horn, the issue was raised of the financial irregularities discovered at the Transsylvania International Foundation, reports the daily ROMANIAI MAGYAR SZO. Tabajdi stated that this situation was inherited from the former government, which ruled before the Hungarian Socialists seized power in 1994, but at that time they agreed with Bela Marko, the president of the UDMR [Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania], not to air the issue to the press, as they first intended to carry out internal investigations. According to the political secretary of the Hungarian prime minister, the facts that meanwhile became public about the situation at the Transsylvania foundation are "just the tip of the iceberg." Bela Marko promised that the situation would be examined by the UDMR oversight commission, and said that in his opinion this issue should not generate public debates. On 6 March several Hungarian-language publications in Romania ran the news that certain outstanding personalities within the UDMR had drawn large amounts of money from the Transsylvania foundation account without justifying the purpose.

The First Round of the Laszlo Tokes-Bela Marko Final Concluded With a Glass of Vodka

On Wednesday [20 March], at the headquarters of the executive presidency of the UDMR Cluj branch, a meeting took place of the consultative council of the presidents of the UDMR territorial organizations. The debates concentrated on the conflict that had broken out between party President Bela Marko and "honorary" president Laszlo Tokes, who at the latest CRU [Council of UDMR Representatives] session in Miercurea Ciuc decided to wash their dirty linen in public. However, the press was denied access to the meeting in Cluj, which lasted for nine hours, after which they clinked a few glasses of vodka together.

In a statement made following the meeting, Bishop Laszlo Tokes said that "the discussions helped to bring closer our principled positions and to clear up certain misunderstandings, the source of which was the lack of communication between us" (between Laszlo Tokes and Bela Marko—editor's note.) Despite the fact that they seemingly made up, Tokes assessed that Bela Marko "finds himself on a different political plane" and blamed him for Laszlo Borbely's appointment, which destroyed the balance within the UDMR.

Bela Marko did not deny that a conflict does exist between him and Laszlo Tokes, and avoided giving a clear answer to a question as to whether he had regained confidence in the bishop.

The fact that the same issue was also discussed during yesterday's session, held in Targu Mures, of the UDMR Operative Council, proves that the UDMR is passing through a period of profound crisis. The aforementioned body solely meets in crisis situations, and so far it has merely met twice, namely during the Nagy Benedek—Laszlo Tokes scandal, and when they discussed the UDMR actions to protest the Education Bill.

The Second Round Ended With Bela Marko's Victory

The UDMR Operative Council session concluded at 1930. The reporters of the Romanian-language papers, who were waiting there for the communique they had been promised, were offered one written in the Hungarian language. As a consequence of this we asked both Bela Marko and Laszlo Tokes to make statements. This is what Laszlo Tokes said: "(...) A consensus was reached regarding the issues that emerged during the CRU session. We agreed that Bela Marko's suspicions were totally grounded with respect to Geza Szocs's

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

appointment as a member of the Hungaria Foundation curator corps, but that his case should be examined by an expert panel, which is to make the final decision."

Referring to the Laszlo Borbely case, Bishop Tokes said that he would keep his office as director in charge of the electoral campaign, but that they would request Bela Marko to explain to Borbely all his duties in detail. This is tantamount to a victory for Marko, as he was the one who proposed Borbely, a person contested by Tokes.

"Our conclusion was that the assessments according to which the UDMR is in a crisis situation are exaggerated. I admit that there is dispute and there are divergent opinions among the UDMR leaders, but during this session of ours we agreed that this should not thwart the unity of our organization in any way," declared Bela Marko.

Romania: Cluj Prefect Rebuffs Funar Allegation About UDMR

AU2603110596 Bucharest JURNALUL NATIONAL in Romanian 20 Mar 96 p 6

[Interview with Grigore Zanc, prefect of Cluj County, by Felix Rache; place and date not given: "'Funar Is Raving To Back Up His Groundless Assertions'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Rache] Mr. Prefect Grigore Zanc, Cluj Mayor Gheorghe Funar is accusing you of having helped the UDMR [Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania] to gain access to the leadership bodies of the county. Is this true?

[Zanc] Every now and then Mr. Funar is raving to back up his groundless assertions. However, I can tell you that no one has helped the UDMR to gain access to the leadership bodies of our county.

[Rache] Mr. Funar stated that in Cluj that there was a secret pact between the PDSR [Social Democracy Party of Romania] and the UDMR. Do you know anything about such a pact?

[Zanc] There is no secret pact whatsoever between the PDSR and the UDMR. There has never been one and Mr. Funar knows this very well. The truth is that the Mr. Funar's only chance is to incite people by heating up the UDMR danger, which, he claims, can be detected only by him.

[Rache] Did you provide supplementary space for the schools of the ethnic Hungarians?

[Zanc] Room for education institutions is granted by the Cluj County Schooling Inspectorate, the size of such space being established by the administrative council of that body. It is none of the Prefect's Office's business.

[Rache] Following the Dacia Felix Bank [BDF] scandal, will Mr. Ioan Sima, former president of that bank, be excluded from the Cluj PDSR branch membership?

[Zanc] Mr. Sima used to be the deputy chairman of the PDSR Cluj branch in charge of privatization and restructuring matters and he also used to ensure the party's relations abroad in that domain. Under the current circumstances, we decided to suspend him from that office until the BNR [Romanian National Bank] concludes its investigations into the BDF. Naturally, should they find him guilty of anything, we will not allow him to stain the prestige of our branch or party. Currently it is quite difficult to puzzle out the internal affairs of that bank, but the BNR has competent bodies for such tasks. However, until the contrary is proved, one should work on the assumption that Mr. Sima is innocent.

Romania: Funar's Opponent Vows To Bring Normalcy to Cluj

AU2903203696 Bucharest JURNALUL NATIONAL in Romanian 23 Mar 96 p 6

["Exclusive" interview with Petre Litiu, candidate for the position of Cluj mayor, by Gena Saru; place and date not given: "I Will Give the Cluj Residents a State of Normalcy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Saru] Mr. Litiu, what do you think are your chances in the competition with Gheorghe Funar for the position of mayor of Cluj-Napoca Municipality?

[Litiu] Taking into account the fact that I was Mr. Funar's opponent four years ago and I received 48 percent of the votes, also taking into account the mistakes made by Mr. Funar in this period of so-called PUNR [Romanian National Unity Party] rule, as he likes to call it, and taking into account his achievements, or better said, his lack of achievement, as well as of the changes that have taken place in the electorate's option, I believe that, this time, my chances are much better than in 1992.

[Saru] If you win, what are you going to give the Cluj residents so that they should not regret their act of electing you?

[Litiu] First of all, I hope to give them a state of normalcy. Even if this expression has been uttered often by others before me, the state of normality that I wish to provide means a local public administration that will take into consideration the law and mainly that would take into consideration the people's wishes. The citizens are the ones who advance us, and it is our duty to solve their problems. Certainly, in this local public

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners

administration, I will try to bring a new, liberal wave, even if I will not necessarily promote a party policy. I hope I will be able to promote the policy of the Cluj residents who deserve something better. Because I am certain that my liberal beliefs are going to spread, I will bring into this administration something new that will mean a liberal stream.

[Saru] You are supported in the elections by the PNL-CD [National Liberal Party-Democratic Convention]. What has determined the leaders of the county organization of this formation to grant you support, instead of having their own candidate for the position of mayor of Cluj-Napoca Municipality?

[Litiu] The PNL-CD was forced by the PNTCD [National Peasant Christian-Democratic Party] to get out of the convention—although, for the time being, it failed to make this move—for the simple reason that a sort of political terrorism is practiced within the CDR [Democratic Convention of Romania]. The PNTCD wants no less than 80 percent of the positions marked on the list, regardless of the fact that there are also other parties such as the PNL, the PNL-CD, and the PER [Ecologist Party of Romania]. There are no other parties. However, there are associations that will have some positions marked on the list, in order to have them cast their votes when those lists are finalized.

Romania: Article Notes PD's Babiuc Views on PDSR Aims

AU2903175896 Bucharest JURNALUL NATIONAL in Romanian 22 Mar 96 p 7

[Article by Lucian Purcareanu: "Secret Services Prepare Files on Politicians Who Belong to the Opposition, States Democratic Party Vice President Victor Babiuc"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Romanian Television has put an embargo on the USD [Social Democratic Union] and, without correctly informing the people, there cannot be correct elections" said Democratic Party Vice President Victor Babiuc. According to him, the PDSR [Social Democracy Party of Romania] is preparing an electoral fraud in order to win the local elections. Victor Babiuc also criticized the fact that all important positions are being occupied by PDSR members. The PD vice president expressed his belief that "the general trend is that one gains certain rights only if one joins the ruling party." Babiuc also believes that the Police, Judicial bodies, and Secret Services are preparing files on politicians who belong to the opposition in order to discredit them in the eyes of the electorate.

Romania: PNL-C Names Campeanu as Presidential Candidate

AU3003175596 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 30 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The extraordinary congress of the National Liberal Party-Campeanu [PNL-C], which took place today in Bucharest, has chosen Radu Campeanu as its candidate to run in the presidential elections.

The congress also approved the PNL-C framework political program, as well as the party's new statute, which has been adapted to the requirements of the new law on the functioning of political parties, reports our correspondent Florin Lepadatu.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Slovenia: Opposition Deputies Oppose Spanish Proposal on EU

AU2903171096 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1430 GMT 29 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the extraordinary session of the State Chamber on Slovene foreign policy that went on for several days, the Committee for Foreign Relations met today. Nadja Pengov reports on the polemical debate that lasted three hours:

[Pengov] Almost all of the committee session was devoted to debate on the Spanish compromise proposal. Liberal Democrats, the Christian Democrats, and ethnic Italian deputy (Baterni) were in favor of it. All opposition deputies were against it. According to the foreign minister, the text of the proposal presented by the Liberal Democracy is a reliable copy of the Spanish proposal that represents a condition for Slovenia's further negotiations with the European Union. According to it, Slovenia will bind itself to adopt privatization laws in two stages. The signing of the association agreement would enable the purchase of real estate by all EU members who stayed on Slovene territory continuously for three years. Later on in the second stage, that is with full EU membership, this right will be given to all citizens of EU member states. [words indistinct] told the deputies that the proposal is impossible to amend as that is the condition set by Brussels; if we amend it, that would mean that we are rejecting the Spanish proposal. Opposition deputies reacted as follows:

Janez Kocijancic of the United List: The Parliament must send signals to Brussels pertaining to constitutional provisions.

Zare Pregelj of the People's Party: Slovenia may accept such conditions only with full membership.

Borut Pahor of the Joint List: The price is too high and unacceptable.

Zmago Jelincic of the National Party: Does this mean that it will be possible for even the former occupiers, Italian and German soldiers, to buy our land?

The committee will add the decisions adopted today to the draft document on which the State Chamber will make a final decision in the continuation of the extraordinary session on 3 April.

Slovenia: Drnovsek Defends Secret Service Head

AU0104120096 Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 26 Mar 96 p 3

[Article by Vladimir Vodusek: "President Drnovsek Will Not Denounce the Director of Sova"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ljubljana, 25 March—At a press conference today Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek added to the unusual discussion regarding the presentation that the director of the Slovene Intelligence Security Agency [Sova], Drago Fers, made at the awareness seminar for businessmen in the Socius Club. He said: "Sova has been working well in the past few years and has done a great deal to consolidate itself. Its activities are useful for the government as well as the economy. We should not regard the aforementioned performance as a negative attitude toward foreign companies or foreign investments."

The "awareness seminar" for businessmen was too "detailed" since the director of the intelligence agency, Drago Fers, mentioned concrete activities of the Italian, Austrian, Croat, British, French, and Serb secret services. In this regard, Fers also mentioned the Creditanstalt, Revoz, and Siemens companies in Slovenia, which are, according to him, gathering information on the Slovene economy and sending the data abroad through diplomatic-consular representative offices.

Neither the government nor the prime minister have received any reports saying that the aforementioned companies are dealing with such activities. These companies do gather information about their partners. If they surpass the predicted limits in this regard, then interventions have to be carried out. Drnovsek said that the participation of the director of Sova was not discussed in the government. "Drago Fers believed that this was part of his duties, and, as he explained to me later, the issue dealt with affirmative endeavors to explain Sova's activities. Perhaps he expressed himself in an awkward manner in some of his formulations because intelligence institutions never present themselves in public. That is where the astonishment about the directness of some of his statements stems from. The government has a positive attitude toward these companies and foreign investments as well as toward all financing that opens up new capabilities and jobs. However, there exist numerous warnings that we are aware of and which we use in our work in our own way. Economists are also warned of various events, which are sometimes noticed by Sova," Drnovsek said. He added that he was satisfied with the activities of the agency and was not considering changing its director. "There were no reactions to Fers' lecture from abroad," the prime minister emphasized.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners

Apart from directors of companies, journalists were also invited to the lecture, although Fers has almost never presented himself in public. Although the seminar was closed to the public, it is not usual for a director of an intelligence service of one country to mention specific actions of foreign agencies, or cases of industrial espionage. Without mentioning the sources, he could have warned the leading managers in the mentioned companies to pay more attention to certain cases of industrial espionage in the otherwise very vulnerable and not well protected Slovene corporations. That is how one individual who is well informed about conditions in the intelligence agency and would not like to be named commented on Fers' lecture.

The public presentation of the secret service director could also be seen as a warning to foreign intelligence agencies that they have, especially regarding industrial espionage, gone too far and shown too great an interest in the country. He supposedly has the silent support of the government on this.

It seems that the reactions to Fers' presentation in the Socius Club should be seen in the context of an attempt to discredit the agency's director and are supposed to be the result of internal political and prestige battles for information. Because of his busy schedule, it was not possible to receive any official explanations from Drago Fers regarding his presentation at the businessmen's club, which is run by Gojko Stanic. Fers supposedly only had the good intention to warn the economists of the priorities of foreign intelligence agencies' activities. Among them he did not mention the most powerful one—the American one.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Serbia

Serbia: Opposition Protests Milosevic Regime at Rally

AU3003191196 Paris AFP in English 1735 GMT 30 Mar 96

[By Jovan Matic]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nis, Yugoslavia, March 30 (AFP)—Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic should stand trial for treason, an opposition leader told an anti-government demonstration attended by 10,000 people Saturday [30 March].

Vuk Draskovic, a writer and leader of the Serbian Renewal movement, told protesters that Milosevic had betrayed the Serbian people, destroyed the state and carried out "the worse crimes ever committed."

"He must be put on trial," Draskovic said.

The opposition protest, held in the industrial city of Nis, a bastion of Milosevic's Socialist Party 300 kilometres (180 miles) from Belgrade, passed without incident.

But organisers said the protest had been infiltrated by Socialist Party provovacteurs, after a temporary power blackout caused Democratic Party leader Zoran Djindjic to interrupt his speech for several minutes.

Djindjic said Milosevic had blood on his hands and should say "how many he has killed."

"Serbia's filth must be cleaned," he added.

Milosevic whipped up Serbian nationalism at rallies at the start of the Balkans conflict in 1991, and is seen as one of the war's chief architects. The latter stages of the conflict saw a large exodus of ethnic Serbs from Croatia and Bosnia to Serbia.

Vesna Pesic, the head of the Civic Alliance, called on Serbs to get rid of Milosevic's "monstrous regime."

The government tried to cushion the impact of the demonstration by announcing on local radio Friday that the protest had been cancelled.

Posters of Milosevic had been pasted over those of the opposition parties overnight Friday.

Draskovic has himself been accused of treason by the government-controlled media in the past few days, after he sent a letter to foreign ministers attacking Milosevic.

The letter said the international community was wasting precious time if it believed a lasting peace could be delivered "by those who began and led the war, and if it believes that these dictators can transform themselves into democrats."

The government-controlled press said the letter, to the foreign ministers of Britain, France, Germany, Italy and the United States amounted to "a call for foreign intervention" in Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

One newspaper, the daily VECERNJE NOVOSTI, called for Draskovic to be prosecuted.

Saturday's demonstration was the third joint opposition protest since early March. Previous rallies at Kragujevac, in the centre of the country, and Belgrade, attracted crowds of 20,000 each.

Serbia: SPS Official: Opposition Rally Unsuccessful

AU3003203796 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 30 Mar 96

[Video report by Sladjana Stamenkovic—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Stamenkovic] During a one-hour opposition meeting in Nis at noon today, the leaders of the Serbian Renewal Movement, the Democratic Party, and the Civic Alliance of Serbia—Vuk Draskovic, Zoran Djinjic, and Vesna Pesic respectively—called on those gathered to form a coalition at the next elections under the slogan: A unified list against communists.

Vuk Draskovic called on all citizens, including officers and generals of our army, to do their military honor and duty and defend Serbia, which is being threatened by those he would rather banish to the past.

During the meeting, we noticed reactions by opponents of the opposition in the buildings surrounding Liberation Square against the betrayal of Serbia and in support for the policy of the Socialists and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. Apart from the Serbian president, government members, and the prime minister, the speakers also criticized the state television, Nis municipal authorities, and the Socialist Party [SPS].

The opposition meeting in Nis gathered several thousand according to Djindjic, several tens of thousands according to Draskovic, and some 3,000-4,000 according to estimates of domestic and foreign correspondents. The Nis municipal SPS committee concluded that insulting cries, broken glass, a damaged monument to the liberators of Nis, and trampled lawns were the aftermath of the opposition, whose sole method of action is to fight the current authorities on the streets and with slogans.

[Mile Ilic, president of the Nis SPS] Contrary to the empty stories and proclamations of the opposition leaders, the citizens of Nis, with their cries of discontent

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

against the uninvited guests and with placards of support for the policy of peace and Serbia's overall development, have once again demonstrated their determination for the SPS and Slobodan Milosevic. Following today's failed and completely unsuccessful opposition meeting, it is crystal clear, probably even to the opposition, that it no longer has any business in Nis, neither at meetings nor at elections.

[Stamenkovic] During the opposition meeting, Nis caried on with its usual Saturday activities.

Serbia: Commentary Views Draskovic Attack on Milosevic

AU3103192696 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 31 Mar 96

[Commentary by Jelena Veljkovic—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] A letter by Vuk Draskovic, president of the Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO), sent to the foreign ministers of the United States, Russia, Great Britain, France, Germany, and Italy is the latest cause of heated commentaries in our public. Draskovic more or less repeats his previously often publicized, highly negative vision of our political reality in which, just as so far, his main target is President Slobodan Milosevic.

According to Draskovic, President Milosevic is the main culprit for the creation of a regime that, as he said, is the only one in Europe to rule with the help of lies and sheer force. The claims that the regime is terrorizing the opposition political forces in Serbia, stopping economic privatization, increasing the police apparatus, forcing citizens to join his party, and so forth are also in the spirit of the well-known Draskovic accusations. Just as on all earlier occasions, the SPO leader criticized the situation in the media with particular ferocity. He devotes the greatest portion of his letter to this subject. There is a complete information darkness in the country, Draskovic informs the foreign statesmen, and, naturally, Milosevic is the main culprit for it. To quote some of Draskovic's statements, he suspended, banned, and ordered everything connected to the media. To save Serbia from this despotism, Vuk Draskovic at the end of the letter calls on the democratic world to apply external pressure on Milosevic while the democratic forces in Serbia, as he said, would apply the pressure from within daily.

The Democratic Party, among others, also supported Draskovic's stance, and its president says that a campaign is being waged against the SPO president that is actually an attempt, as he said, to profess a new love affair with China, Korea, and Cuba, while the Western countries are again the enemy. Djindjic considers this another deception of the regime, while NASA BORBA judges Draskovic's letter to be naive and harmless. The biggest number of political parties and leading papers in Serbia interpreted Draskovic's call for pressure as a call for foreign intervention against Serbia, and by this, an act of treason. The SPO president reacted to such accusations in NASA BORBA. He added some new accusations to his earlier ones, convinced that a hunt has been staged against him. By the way, he deemed the deputies on television and in other media moral zeroes. Finally, Draskovic explains that in his letter to the Contact Group foreign ministers, he actually sought an answer as to, we quote, whether Milosevic enjoys the support of the superpowers for everything that he is doing.

To our knowledge, the superpowers have not replied to Draskovic yet, if we discount a personal action by the diplomatic representative of Germany, whose charge d'affaires attended this year's 9 March rally. We can only speculate how and whether the superpowers will reply to Draskovic.

A sensible political reasoning departs from the premise that nowhere in the world are the political views on any given country based on the information by the pretenders to the authorities in this country, but on their own sources and their own assessments. Acknowledging this premise, a reply to Draskovic's question has already been given—in Dayton and in Paris. From these sources, the superpowers learn well everything that they need to form a political picture on Serbia and its politicians, Milosevic and Draskovic alike. The Contact Group members assessed the FRY's activities as a great contribution to the peace process. The United Nations suspended sanctions against Yugoslavia, and President Milosevic himself won recognition from the superpowers for playing the key role in the peace process. Is this not perfectly sufficient for the international credibility of President Milosevic and his policy that bothers Draskovic so much?

Kosovo

Kosovo: SSJ Leader: Albanians Must Be Loyal to Serbia

LD3003202796 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2002 GMT 30 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Pec, 30 Mar (TANJUG)—Zeljo Raznatovic Arkan, chairman of the Party of Serb Unity [SSJ], today called on Kosovo Albanians to take part in the upcoming elections and to implement their rights in a democratic way through the legal bodies of the Serbian state.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Speaking at a news conference in Pec, Raznatovic said that, in the event that the SSJ won the elections, Kosovo and Metohija will be saved—that is, all disloyal Albanians will have to leave Kosovo.

Commenting on the work of The Hague Tribunal, Raznatovic said that the tribunal was only trying Serb patriots.

Kosovo: Serb Police Buildup Reported in Djakovica

AU2803203396 Pristina KOSOVA DAILY REPORT in English 26 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sources in Gjakove [Djakovica] said there has been an increased build-up of Serbian police forces in the town over the past two days. Serbian police units have been patrolling the streets of the town, while the "Pashtrik" Hotel has been strictly controlled by the Serbian forces.

A Serbian police tank has been positioned in front of this hotel since Monday [25 March] morning, sources said.

Kosovo: Serb Police Reportedly Harass Albanian Journalist

AU2803213696 Pristina KOSOVA DAILY REPORT in English 26 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On 24 March, the Serbian police detained and harassed in Ferizaj [Urosevac] Pajtim Sahiti, reporter with the "Radio Ars" station in Gostivar, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM).

Mr. Pajtim Sahiti told KIC [Kosova Information Center] yesterday he was initially taken to the Serbian police station in Ferizaj (in Serbian Urosevac), where he was subjected to physical torture. After having been questioned for a couple of hours, he had his passport and ID seized, as well as copies of Albanian-language magazines published in Kosova, and recorded stories he had made while in Kosova. He was released under condition he reported back the next day.

When reporting the next day to the police, he was cross-examined again for several hours about his visit to Kosova.

Kosovo: Serb Police Said To Harass Albanian Teachers

AU2803215696

[FBIS Report] Pristina KOSOVA DAILY REPORT No. 842 in English on 26 March carries several reports on Serbian police harassing ethnic Albanian teachers and activists in various areas in the province.

Under the headline "Albanian Teacher Prosecuted for Involvement in Self-Governing Education," the report says that the "Serbian-run Magistrate Court" in Djakovica "has instituted criminal charges" against a former elementary school principal school at Cermjan village in Djakovica.

The Democratic League of Kosova (LDK) Information Commission in Djakovica says that the Albanian "has been accused pursuant to Article 216 of the Penal Code of the self-styled Yugoslavia for having allegedly called for resistance to the regime in 1991." LDK sources confirm that the Albanian principal "has only been involved in Albanian-language educational process in his village after the Serbian crackdown on Albanian school. He has organized Albanian language education at his school in compliance with the teaching curricula of Kosova, deemed illegal by the Serbian regime."

Another report points out that "the Serbian so-called fiscal police has levied heavy arbitrary fines on Albanian-owned businesses" in Vucitrn and Skenderaj "allegedly on grounds that they have not duly paid taxes." The local Serbian daily JEDINSTVO reports that the Vucitrn businesses "were fined" 750,000 dinars or approximately 200,000 German marks (DM), whereas those in Skenderaj with 150,000 dinars or approximately DM50,000.

Sources also make known that in towns such as Urosevac and Mitrovica, but also in other places in Kosovo, "the Serbian regime's authorities have plundered huge amounts of money and goods under the same pretext." The Serbian daily notes "the Serbian police will continue its campaign."

Report No 842 also cites numerous cases of Serbian police detaining Albanians under various pretexts. Reports from Urosevac say that the Serbian police on 21 March "ill-treated" an Albanian butcher from Urosevac. The Albanian was also "arrested" last year and DM3,500 was seized.

Between 23 and 25 March, the Serbian police arrested an activist with the local financial council at Nerodime village under "the pretext of illegal arms possession." Over the past month, the police "detained and interrogated" two LDK activists from Nerodime village.

Reports from Glogovac say that the Serbian police on 24 March detained an Albanian from Gradice village, activist with the Glogovac branch of the Council for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms and "interrogated" him "for several hours at the Serbian police station."

It is also reported that the Serbian police "raided" the home of an Albanian activist with the LDK Information

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Commission in Decan, who was "questioned about his work with the commission" as well as "the activity of all Albanian political parties in the municipality."

Reports also confirm that "two other Albanian LDK activists were intimidated by the Serbian police, too."

Another Albanian from Voksh village was "ordered to turn in a piece of weapon he was allegedly in possession of," while another one was summoned to "report" to the Serbian police station in Decan.

Reports from Prizren say that "over the past two days, the Serbian police has raided half a dozen Albanian households at Bilushe village." Two Albanians have been reported "in Serbian police custody" since the morning of 25 March allegedly "in connection with arms possession."

Kosovo: Serb Police Reportedly Raid Albanian Homes

AU2803205096

[FBIS Report] Pristina KOSOVA DAILY REPORT No. 843 in English on 25 March carries several reports on Serbian police raids on Albanian schools and homes.

The Democratic League of Kosova (LDK) sources report that the Serbian police on 23 March "raided" the premises of the secondary technical school in Urosevac. The report says that the police "cross-examined all the teachers" and "seized the seals and some diplomas and certificates." The police also "inquired" about the school principal, who was not present at the time of the raid, and about the owner of the house where the school premises are located.

Another report says that the Serbian police on 21 March "arrested" an Albanian from Gradice village, a student at the secondary technical school in Glogovac. The report notes that while "in custody" he was "severely beaten up by five policeman, who forced him to say that his father was allegedly in possession of arms." The report concludes that "after several hours in detention, he was released in a condition of very bad health."

Sources in Kamenica say that the Serbian police on 21 March detained an LDK Youth Forum activist and "interrogated" him for "over two hours about his activities." The Serbian police on 19 march "raided" the home of an Albanian LDK activist from Kamenica. As he "was not at home," the police "left a summons for him to report at the police station and turn in a weapon he was allegedly in possession of." Reports say that "under the same pretext" the Albanian had been summoned to the Serbian police station before and subjected to "severe physical torture."

It is reported that "on the same day" and "under the same charges" an LDK activist was summoned to "appear at the Serbian police station."

Sources confirm that under the "alleged charges of being in possession of arms," the Serbian police on 19 March "detained" an Albanian from Kamenica, who was "exposed to severe physical torture while in custody," although he "denied the charges." On the following day, six Albanians from the same family from Kopernice village were "summoned to report at the Serbian police station" and were "interrogated for a couple of hours under the alleged pretext of illegal arms possession."

Sources in Glogovac confirm that the Serbian police on 21 March "raided" the home of an Albanian from Terdefc village under the "alleged excuse of arms searches." Two more Albanians "had their passports seized." Although "no arms" were found, the police "arrested" an Albanian and took him to the police station in Glogovac, from where he was "transferred" to Pristina and "held until the late evening hours."

LDK sources in Gnjilane say that two Serb policemen on 20 March arrested the elementary school principal in the village of Llashtice. While "in custody" he was "subjected to so-called informative talks" and interrogated on "issues concerning his profession." He was also "asked" about the convention of the trade union branch held on 18 March, and "required to provide them with a list of names of participants at the convention."

The Serbian police on 19 March "raided" the home of an Albanian from Gnjilane and "required from him that he turn in a weapon that he was allegedly in possession of." Reports say that the next day he "was exposed to brutal physical torture" at the police station.

The Serbian police on the same day detained a librarian in the village of Bresalc "for several hours" and ordered him to "turn in a weapon that he was allegedly in possession of." LDK sources report that he was "released," but "ordered to report back the next day, when he was actually subjected to severe physical torture."

Kosovo: Albanian Schools Said Targeted by Serb Police

AU2903191896

[FBIS Report] Pristina KOSOVA DAILY REPORT No. 844 in English on 28 March carries several reports on Serbian police raids on Albanian schools and homes in Kosovo.

Reports from the Kosova Information Center say that the Serbian police "obstructed" the Albanian-language teaching process in some elementary and secondary

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

schools in Kosovo. Seven schools in Pristina were the "target of the Serbian police" on 28 March.

Meanwhile, the Democratic League of Kosova sources in Istok report that "the Serbian police raided the premises of several schools in the municipality." Six schools were "forced to suspend" their lessons. It is reported that "the pretext for today's campaign against the Albanian-language schools is the disobedience on the part of the Kosova Albanians with a sort of 'national holiday in Serbia,' which marks the forceful changes of the constitution, i.e. the suspension of Kosova's constitutional position in the Former Yugoslavia."

Under the headline "Albanian Journalist Harassed by Serbian State Officers," another report notes that the Serbian state security officers on 27 March arrested a former Pristina Television correspondent. While "in custody," the Albanian was "harassed and cross-examined about the Albanian Christian Democratic Party" and "the activities the Kosova Office in Tirana."

A report from Skenderaj says that the Serbian police on 21 March "detained" six Albanians from Izbica village "under the alleged charges of illegal arms possession." Although "no arms were reported found," they were subject to "physical torture at the police station."

Kosovo: 'Violence Against Albanians' by Serbs Reported

AU3103151696

[FBIS Report] Pristina KOSOVA DAILY REPORT No. 845 in English on 29 March carries several reports on Serbian police violence against Albanians in the province.

It is reported that some Serb refugees housed in Prizren usurped the schoolyard of the local elementary school in Serbice e Ulet, an Albanian-inhabited village in the municipality.

Democratic League of Kosova (LDK) sources in Prizren say that last week, a group of Serbs fenced the 0.3 hectare yard of the elementary school and a couple of days later ploughed it with a tractor. It is reported that the Serb refugees also pulled up dozens of apple trees in the yard.

Reports confirm that the Serbian police on 28 March beat up an Albanian boy from Hajvali village.

Sources also say that a Serbian police expedition harassed dozens of Albanians selling cigarettes on the street near the fresh fruit market in Pristina, taking their money and cigarettes. One of the Albanians is reported to have suffered severe body injuries.

Report No 845 also notes that Serbian security officers on 29 March physically maltreated an Albanian employee at "Elektroekonomia" (Electric Power Industry) of Kosova. The Albanian told the Kosova Information Center that he was beaten up by security officers of "Elektroekonomia" and that they were incited by a Serb, Dragan Stojanoviq, who had previously threatened him several times. The Albanian also confirmed that he had been maltreated on 25 March at the Serbian police station in Lluzhan and threatened with assassination by the Serbian police officer.

Under the headline "Repression Chronicle," Report No 845 also cites various cases of Serbian police arresting Albanian activists.

Reports from Gnjilane say that Serbian state security officers on 26 March arrested the chairman of the local financial council in Verbice, who was reportedly physically tortured under the alleged charges of illegal arms possession.

Sources in Obiliq note that between 23 and 25 March, Serbian police arrested seven Albanians from Plemetin and Sibovc villages under the same charges. All of them were reportedly tortured.

It is reported from Malisevo that the Serbian police on 28 March arrested an Albanian from Shkoze village while he was shopping, allegedly in connection with arms possession. The Albanian was released later in the afternoon after being severely beaten.

Today's issue of BUJKU reports that the Serbian police on 28 March raided the home of an Albanian in Pristina. It is confirmed that the police broke all the doors, destroyed furniture, and maltreated family members for several hours. Reports say that the police were after the son of one of the Albanians who is an LDK activist.

Kosovo: Rugova Hopes For Mediator in Belgrade Talks

AU3103154596 Pristina KOSOVA DAILY REPORT in English 29 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "The Badinter Commission has not set a limit to the number of the states succeeding the former Yugoslavia," President of the Republic of Kosova Dr. Ibrahim Rugova said Friday [29 March] during a press conference in Prishtina [Pristina]. He availed himself of the opportunity to remind international financial institutions, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the European Bank for Development, that Kosova was "a fully-fledged associate member of them all".

Like the other seven units of the former Federation, in the 1980s Kosova rescheduled its debt amounting

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

to $872 million, that is 4.5% of the total $19 billion, Dr. Ibrahim Rugova said, insisting that Kosova wants to take on its obligations and claims the benefits from the succession process. "Serbia cannot take over the rights to succession of any other (member of the former Yugoslav Federation)," President Rugova said, noting that the Kosova government will again approach the above-mentioned international institutions regarding the matter.

"Kosova has a seat in all these institutions," the Kosova president stressed, and went on to say that the very membership in the international institutions is an additional proof of Kosova's status in the former Yugoslav Federation and, accordingly, in the international community.

"We call on the former Yugoslav republics, first and foremost Slovenia, to stand and speak out for the truth, and support Kosova," president of the Republic of Kosova said.

Speaking to reporters on Friday, Dr. Ibrahim Rugova said Wednesday (27 March) was "a great Albanian-American day" in Washington, where 7,000 people rallied in support of Kosova's independence and against Serbian occupation of our country. He said the Albanians have achieved approbation by The White House and President Clinton, and thanked members to House of Representatives and the Senate Engel, Dole, D'Amatto, Kelly, Bonior, Moran, Coverdell, Clandon, Pressler, Gillman, etc., who have either participated or sent messages to the rally in support of the Kosova issue.

President Rugova welcomed the announced introduction of a concurrent resolution on Kosova by Rep. Engel and Senator Dole. "The U.S. Congress is among the first international institutions to have stood for Kosova since the 1980s," he said, adding that he hoped President Clinton would acknowledge the call for the appointment of an envoy to mediate between Prishtina and Belgrade on Kosova.

"The partitioning of Kosova is not an option," President Rugova said, when asked to respond to comments [on the Voice of America] by former U.S. Ambassador to Belgrade Zimmerman. "He (Zimmerman) is supportive of the legitimate claims of the people of Kosova," Dr. Rugova said.

The "outer wall" of sanctions on Serbia, sanctioned by the Dayton accords, will remain in force, President Rugova said, noting that Paris's normalization of relations with Belgrade is a matter of better communications rather than recognition. "The official France has had quite a correct stand on the Kosova issue," he said, noting that "good and regular" contacts have been maintained.

Kosova president hailed Pax Christie International's call for the self-determination right of Kosova as well as the newest report on Kosova by the UN Special Rapporteur Elizabeth Rehn.

Kosova has been gaining prominence in the international agenda, President Rugova said, adding that several countries have been considering possibilities of establishing a presence in Kosova through offices. Touching on the every day reality in Kosova under Serbian occupation, Dr. Rugova stressed a ferocious Serbian campaign against Albanians has continued. He noted that the Serbian police has intervened in scores of Kosova places, maltreating a large number of people. "The most conspicuous case was the raid of as many as 100 Albanian households at two Hani i Elezit villages, in which some 70 policemen were involved," he said.

The persecution of Albanian political activists, especially LDK [Democratic League of Kosova] people, has continued, as well as interference with the Albanian schools on 28 March, the day when seven years ago (1989) "Serbian occupation of Kosova began." Small businesses owned by Albanians have been the target of the Serbian regime in several Kosova municipalities, President Rugova said, calling on the local Serbs to refrain from provoking Albanians.

An independent Kosova, open to both Albania and Serbia, is the solution to the Kosova issue, the president said, reaffirming the need for a temporary international civil administration to facilitate a negotiated settlement to the Kosova issue.

Kosovo: Rugova Rejects Autonomy, Urges Independence

AU3103201096 Tirana RILINDJA in Albanian 30 Mar 96 pp 1, 3

[Report on news conference by Ibrahim Rugova, "president of the Republic of Kosova," by Behar Zogjani in Pristina on 29 March: Neither Partition nor Autonomy, but Independence]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ibrahim Rugova, president of the Republic of Kosova, said at the beginning of his news conference yesterday that 27 March was a great Albanian-American day in Washington, when more than 7,000 demonstrated in support of the independence of Kosova. We thank the White House and President Clinton for receiving the Albanians and the many congressmen and senators such as Engel, D'Amato, Dole, Pressler, and others who spoke to directly to the crowd, sent messages of support, and expressed their

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

concern over the repression here in Kosova. [passage omitted]

The Serbian correspondent of Radio Prishtina had three questions for Rugova concerning the statement by Mr. Zimmerman, the former U.S. ambassador in Belgrade, who said that the question of Kosova can be settled if Serbia withdraws and Kosova is partitioned. He asked what level of autonomy Rugova would accept and also about Serbian radicalism in Kosova.

The president of the Republic of Kosova said that the partition of Kosova is totally unimaginable. Mr. Zimmerman is known to desire a relaxation of tension in Kosova and to support the rights of the Albanians for independence. The international community, Dr. Rugova continued, has no international standpoint on the level of autonomy for Kosova, and the stand of the Kosovars themselves is well known to be for an independent Kosova open to Serbia and Albania and with every guarantee for all its citizens. He added that it would be difficult to radicalize the Serbs in Kosova when the Albanian people have exerted their influence to forestall this happening so far.

Kosova Has Its Own Seat in International Institutions

Dr. Rugova, talking about the issue of succession to the former Yugoslavia, said that the Badinter Commission had not prescribed how many states might emerge from the former Yugoslavia. We can state that Kosova's debt was $872 million or 4.2 percent of the debt of the former Yugoslavia. This was the rescheduled debt.

Kosova was a full-fledged member of the IMF, the World Bank, and the European Bank. Kosova has a seat reserved for it at the Development Bank, and its membership of international financial institutions dates back earlier. This testifies to Kosova's federal status and the international agreements Kosova made on an international plane. Rugova asked the states of the former Yugoslavia to support Kosova, and particularly asked Slovenia to do this, and to tell the truth.

President at a Difficult Time

The correspondent of Deutsche Welle was interested in the opinion of the president of the Republic of Kosova about the French attitude toward the normalization of relations with Serbia and the French Justice Ministry's rejection of a university award for Dr. Rugova. President Rugova said that the Dayton accords will be respected and that the external wall is being respected more and more every day. These relations established by the international community are more for the purposes of communication that for recognition. As for France, we have good and regular contacts. Besides French intellectuals, the French Government has been very punctilious in the last few years. The very large Man organization has also supported the president of the Republic of Kosova as a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize and has visited and issued very fine reports on Kosova. Medecins sans Frontieres has also done fine work in Kosova. The French Ministry's objections that have been reported in the press are a matter of procedure. The peace and freedom prize that I was awarded in Denmark was also a prize for independence, Rugova said. Following persistent questioning by this correspondent, Dr. Rugova said that the step of the international community in support of Kosova that matters has been the opening of the U.S. office. Our principle is to have as many friends as possible.

Asked by the correspondent of KOHA about the position of Kosova after Dayton, Dr. Rugova said that there have been positive steps. The important thing was to stop the war in Bosnia and to open prospects of preventing further regional conflicts from spreading. The external wall is being more strictly applied, and is a way of exerting pressure on Belgrade to contribute to solving the issue of Kosova. We are committed to talks in the presence of a third party. It is will known that the cause of Kosova is at the top of the international agenda. Meanwhile, asked by the correspondent of BOTA SOT to comment on the importance of Dole's resolution in the U.S. Congress, Dr. Rugova said that the U.S. Congress was among the first to support Kosova's independence, and this encouraged many other international bodies.

The correspondent of Radio Ulcinj was interested in knowing the president's views about the meeting of Balkan ministers in Tirana, which Dr. Rugova called very important.

The correspondent of Albanian Radio-Television asked Rugova about possible outbreaks of dissatisfaction over the situation, and whether he would deplore such dissatisfaction or associate himself with it. President Rugova said that he is a president in difficult times, but has all the duties arising from the post of president. The correspondent of Skopje Radio-Television asked Dr. Fehmi Agani, deputy chairman of the Kosova Democratic League, about his statement about the failure of the European envoys who sought a solution to the Kosova question in Belgrade. Fehmi Agani confirmed once again that the EU has so far shown itself unable to solve the crisis in the former Yugoslavia, including the crisis in Kosova. Anybody who can do better is welcome to try, but it is something that can be done first of all in Prishtina.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kosovo: Rugova Praises U.S. Support for Albanian Issue

AU3103135896 Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1735 GMT 30 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At a regular meeting with the Democratic League of Kosova [LDK] branch chairmen, President of the Republic of Kosova Ibrahim Rugova assessed as very important the rallies and demonstrations that have been and are being held in the United States and in Europe as an efficient form of our internal organization and that of the diaspora in affirming the Kosova issue. Ramadan Mucolli has a telephone report:

[Mucolli] The Kosova Information Center reports that the weekly meeting of the LDK branch leaders discussed the current situation in Kosova and the role and importance of demonstrations and rallies of Albanians in the West. President Rugova assessed that in these manifestations, in which Albanians demand that the independence of Kosova be recognized, testify to the internal organization and that of the diaspora in affirming the Kosova issue.

Highly assessing the manifestation of protest organized by Albanians in Washington, Rugova stated that this testified to the good organization of Albanians in the United States and particularly that of the LDK branch. He informed the branch representatives that many U.S. officials and supporters and friends of Albania and the Kosova issue joined the manifestations in Washington. A delegation of Albanians was received by top officials at the White House. President Rugova assessed that this once again demonstrates the U.S. support for the Albanian issue and that of Kosova. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.